

JOYS AND CONCERNS AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Hear Our Prayer"

Hear our prayer, O Lord. hear our prayer, O Lord.

Hear our prayer, O Lord, and grant us thy peace.

COMMUNION HOMILY

Rev. David A. Jones

OUR OFFERING AND OFFERTORY "A New Day Dawns"

Ron Sprunger

* THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below. Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ORDER FOR HOLY COMMUNION (insert)

* EUCHARISTIC BLESSING

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God sends us out, so that grace will not be unknown in our time.

Here we are, ready to go and share love and mercy with those around us.

Jesus calls us to go out, so that justice will not be unknown in our time.

Here we are, ready to speak truth to power, walking with those on oppression's mean streets.

The Holy Spirit fills us with compassion, so that peace will not be unknown in our time.

Here we are, offering hope to those living in fear, working for reconciliation in brokenness.

May it be so this day and all days.

Amen.

* BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN

* HYMN #30 (Red Hymnal)

"Come, We Who Love the Lord"

* SILENT MEDITATION

POSTLUDE "In Remembrance"

Buryl Red

*Please stand as you are able

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Rev. David A. Jones, Pastor



January 5, 2025

Second Sunday after Christmas

Reader: Deborah Follett

God is Still Speaking ...

"The truth is that our finest moments are most likely to occur when we are feeling deeply uncomfortable, unhappy, or unfulfilled. For it is only in such moments, propelled by our discomfort, that we are likely to step out of our ruts and start searching for different ways or truer answers." M. Scott Peck

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "The Bond of Love" Ron Sprunger

* SOLEMN DECLARATION AND SUNG AMEN

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Come, join in the search, for God is eager to reveal something new.

People: God has sent the Light to dispel our fears. The glory of God rises within us.

Pastor: We share in the Good News of the promise of Jesus.

People: We gather today to lift our eyes to what God is revealing to us.

Pastor: Through us, the wisdom of God will be made known.

People: The radiance of God's truth surrounds us. Boldly and confidently, we approach our God.

*HYMN #123 (Red Hymnal) "As With Gladness Men of Old"

* CALL TO CONFESSION

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the strong and God of the weak, we confess that we are often more impressed with famous people than we are with your amazing glory. The rulers of this earth are more real to us than the One who reigns over time and eternity. Your priorities are not foremost in our lives. We reach for power and popularity more than justice for all of your children. We are more focused on prosperity than on relief for the oppressed. Our earthly pursuits have never satisfied us, so we ask you to save us from their distractions in our lives, and cause in us, a new Epiphany of your love and grace in our lives...

Silent confession...

* KYRIE ELEISON

Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

* WORDS OF GRACE AND MERCY

God will judge us with righteousness and deliver us from oppressive greed to which we have succumbed. The showers of God's blessings will fall on us like rain from the heavens. Peace will abound in the hearts of those who give help to the poor and needy. God has commissioned us, as fellow heirs with Christ, to fulfill the mission given to the Saints.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

SPECIAL MUSIC "Come, Come to the Table" Joshua Metzger
Choir

CHILDREN'S SERMON

THE SCRIPTURES (insert)

New Testament Ephesians 1: 3 - 14

*Gospel John 1: 10 - 18

* THE GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

* PROCLAIMING OUR FAITH – THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into Hades; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Scripture Readings

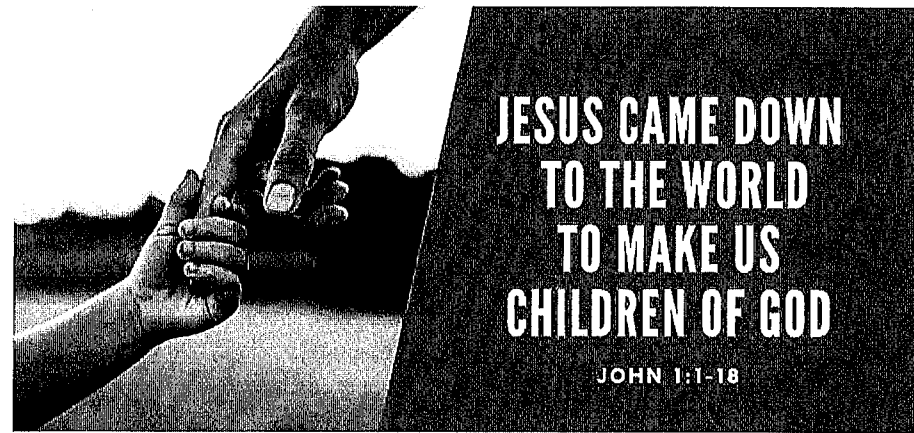
Ephesians 1: 3 – 14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

John 1: 10 – 18

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John the Baptist testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.



Order for Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer

May the God of our moments be with you.
And also with you.

People of God, let us offer our hearts to the One who is with us in this place and time.
We lift them to the One who fills us with grace.

Children of hope, join in singing praises to God.
With hearts and voices, we lift glad thanksgivings.

When chaos refused to listen, you called creation out of emptiness, God of the beginning and the end, rabbits burrowed under snowy meadows, dolphins were gliding through warm oceans, and eagles were soaring in empty skies. These, and all your gifts, were offered to those created in your image so that we could be with you in every moment, but we decided to do what pleased sin and death more than you. Prophets came, calling to us, hoping to help us see you searching, but we thought no good could come from their words. Then, you sent your love to us in Jesus, so that your good news would not remain hidden from us. With little children filled with questions, with those worn by years of wonder and service, we offer our thanksgivings to you:

Seraphic Hymn (#522, red hymnal)

Words of Institution

Prayer of Intercession

Before we gather at this table, loving God, you are already here. So we ask you to pour out your Spirit on these gifts prepared by you, for your people. As we take the bread of life, may we hear the cries of hungry children, the groans of weary workers, the whispers of lonely strangers, so that we can say, 'here we are,' as we reach out to serve. As we drink the cup of grace, may we listen to your heart which seeks justice for the overlooked, peace in violent settings, hope in despair's shadows, so that we may not only hear your words, but act as your hands and feet, your voice and your love in the world. And when all of time comes to an end, may we find you waiting beyond, seating us with our sisters and brothers around the wedding feast of the Lamb, where we will rejoice in you, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

Agnus Dei (#525, red hymnal)

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Blessing the Children

Receiving the Elements

ST. MARK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The bulletins are presented by Nell & Glenn Kline to the Glory of God.

Flowers and Bulletins – Dates available for flowers are: January 12, 19 and 26. Dates available for bulletins are: January 19. Please contact the office if interested in sponsoring any flowers or bulletins.

Roof Repairs – There are envelopes in the narthex labeled "Roof Repairs." We would appreciate your help with this project. As of December 29, we have collected \$16,968.39 towards the roof repairs. Thank you to all who have donated.

Evangelism and Mission

- Looking for something to do in the winter months? Try jigsaw evangelism. We will meet the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of January/February and March in Fellowship Hall from 9-11. Light refreshments will be served while we gather each Saturday. You don't need to be an experienced puzzle specialist to participate. This is for ANYONE who likes to dabble in jigsaw puzzles.

- A meeting will be held Sunday January 5th about taking a mini mission trip to Asheville NC in May 2025. If you are interested, please join us after church in Fellowship Hall to discuss possible dates, travel ideas and ideas for working in Asheville. Look for a meeting in February for the WARM NC Mission Trip in August. If you're interested but can't make the meeting, please see Kathy for more information.

Offering Envelopes for 2025 – are now available. Please pick them up in the narthex. If you have a neighbor, friend or relative that you can deliver the envelopes to, please do. Thank you.

Save the Dates:

January 18	Jigsaw Puzzle
January 19	Youth/Young Adult Bowling
January 26	Annual Congregational Meeting
February 9	Souper Bowl Sunday

Conference Call information:

Dial (215) 383-1625 Enter conference code: 569284
Press* when asked for your attendee pin