



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America



## THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 21, 2024 - 10:00 AM - in the Sanctuary



### Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

As disciples of Christ seeking peace and justice in the world, we welcome, affirm, and include all people into the fullness of God's love. We celebrate people of all races, cultures, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical or mental abilities, socioeconomic statuses, appearances, family status and citizenship as equally loved and valued in the eyes of God and in this place. All are invited to join this community as we worship God, grow in faith, and strive to love and serve one another. All, without exception, are welcome in this place.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Trinity's Pastors and staff by Jeff and Lisa Rehm.

# SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister and Preaching	Susan Crowell
Assisting Minister	Patrick Preacher
Organist and Choir Director	Jim Parham
Lector	Emily Hager
Prayers	Donna Potts
Communion Assistant	Philip Wessinger
Cantor	John Beckford
Acolyte	Jenna Mast
Children's Worship Activity Leaders	Maggie Boliek Teresa Harrington Beth Hill
Praying for Possibilities	David Potts
Greeters	Mark Allen Angie Hager Emily Hager Dale Hamann Sandra Hamann Deirdre Hixson Sarah Weeks
Ushers	Richard Delap Danny Fagala Wayne Landreth Franklin Sease
Fellowship Hosts	Maria and John Roberts
Video	Henry Wilcox
Audio	Gregg Alley

# GATHERING

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

HOLY BAPTISM

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

In baptism our gracious heavenly parent frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

*Presentation*

We present Benjamin Heyward for baptism.

Matthew and Grace, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have this child baptized in Christ?

*Response:*

We do.

As you bring Benjamin to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Benjamin grow in the Christian faith and life?

*Response:*

We do.

People of God, do you promise to support Benjamin and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

**We do.**

*Please stand as able*

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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

The Lord is with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. Christ sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your children, no longer slave and free, no longer lonely and isolated, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Water is poured on the child's head, as the presiding minister says:*

Benjamin Heyward,

I baptize you in the name of the Father,

and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## BAPTISMAL ACCLAMATION

You be - long to Christ, in whom you have been bap - tized.

al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Benjamin with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:*

Benjamin Heyward Wessinger, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Amen.**

Let us welcome Benjamin into our church family.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:  
join us in giving thanks and praise to God  
and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

*Those gathered at the font share the peace before returning to their seats*

**We are people created, chosen by God.  
Then we're washed, ever gently, in mercy and love.  
Sin has power no more. Jesus opened the door  
to a fountain bringing healing, and wholeness and more.**

**We are fed and we're nourished, filled and refreshed.  
Then our hunger returns and again we are blessed.  
For whatever the need, God is greater indeed:  
endless ocean, always deeper than all of our need.**

**We are nourished by water, all living things,  
and by life that the Spirit abundantly brings.  
As we journey toward home, may your presence be known:  
precious river, ever-flowing, now carry us home.**

**Now with praise and thanksgiving, we join the song.  
All are welcome! We gather to sing loud and strong.  
Not enslaved, but set free! From now on, all will be  
one in Jesus, one in water, baptized and set free!**

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Gracious God, we get upset about so many things and often our frustrations reflect how far away we are from your heart and passion. It seems that we care more about what gives us comfort than what breaks your heart. Show us how to love all people the way you love all people. Open our eyes to see the value and worth in every single human being. Help us to joyfully extend grace and mercy — not just to the people with whom we agree — but also to those who seem so very different from us. Help us to grow up so that we might become mature partners with you and serve as agents and missionaries and ambassadors of your steadfast love for all humanity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## WORD

FIRST READING

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

A reading from Jonah.

<sup>1</sup>The word of GOD came to Jonah a second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” <sup>3</sup>So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of GOD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be destroyed!” <sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God relented and did not bring the calamity upon them.

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**



*Thereafter, the congregation is invited to sing without introduction.**Psalm  
Refrain**Psalm  
Tone*

<sup>5</sup>For God alone I | wait in silence;  
truly, my hope | is in God.

<sup>6</sup>**God alone is my rock and | my salvation,  
my stronghold, so that I shall nev- | er be shaken.**

<sup>7</sup>In God is my deliverance | and my honor;  
God is my strong rock | and my refuge.

<sup>8</sup>**Put your trust in God al- | ways, O people,  
pour out your hearts before the one who | is our refuge. R**

<sup>9</sup>Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate can- | not be trusted.  
Placed on the scales together they weigh even less | than a breath.

<sup>10</sup>**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no | empty pride;  
though wealth increase, set not your | heart upon it.**

<sup>11</sup>God has spoken once, twice | have I heard it,  
that power be- | longs to God.

<sup>12</sup>**Steadfast love belongs to | you, O Lord,  
for you repay all according | to their deeds. R**

A reading from first Corinthians.

<sup>29</sup>My dear siblings, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have spouses be as though they had none, <sup>30</sup>and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, <sup>31</sup>and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Children's Sermon

*Everybody Needs Help Sometimes*

*Please stand as able*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil*

#512

**Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.**

**Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.**

**When my heart is hard, break the stone away. When my heart is cold,  
warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.**

**Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.**

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark the first chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." <sup>16</sup>As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>Immediately, Jesus called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired hands, and followed him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

SERMON

*Exasperating Grace*

*Please stand as able*

HYMN OF THE DAY

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

#588

**There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment giv'n.**

**There is welcome for the sinner, and a promised grace made good;  
there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.  
There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this;  
there is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss.**

**For the love of God is broader than the measures of our mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
But we make this love too narrow by false limits of our own;  
and we magnify its strictness with a zeal God will not own.**

**'Tis not all we owe to Jesus; it is something more than all:  
greater good because of evil, larger mercy through the fall.  
Make our love, O God, more faithful; let us take you at your word,  
and our lives will be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

God our rock and deliverance, do not let your church be shaken. We trust you never abandon your promises to the most vulnerable among us. Give your church wisdom and empathy in its varied ministries. Bring hope where there is doubt and harmony where there is discord. Help us to more fully understand your ability to change your mind means the church too can and should be constantly changing. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

God our hope and provider, you placed the fish in the sea. Guide our care of oceans and all creatures that live in them. Bless the hands, boats, and tools of those who work for the sustainable catching of fish, shrimp, crab and other sea creatures for human consumption. Hold us accountable for actions that endanger water sources and the people who depend on them. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

God who proclaims judgement and offers mercy, be a model to the leaders of our nation and the world. As they lead, may they follow in your way of justice and truth. Now officially into the Presidential primaries, we call out to you for guidance and clear hearts. Ease political disagreements and make clear the path for an honest and noble leader who desires to work for justice, equity, and peace. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

God who names us and claims us we give you thanks for the baptism of Benjamin Heyward Wessinger. Having passed through your waters, he begins his lifelong journey as a follower of Jesus. We pray that he may never go a day without feeling the power of your radical love. As you have clothed him in Christ, so clothe him in abundant grace to share with the world. Strengthen family, chosen family, and friends who strive to raise Benjamin in the faith. Bless and strengthen Matthew and Grace to be faithful parents, so that their family might bear witness to your inclusive love for all people. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

God who renews the church in every age, we give you thanks for the many people the Holy Spirit encourages to lead this congregation. As we install congregation council members and officers today, we ask you to inspire them to explore and put into action bold ways for us to be the church together for the sake of the world. Bless and inspire Danny, Lindsay, Deirdre, Greg, Calvin, John, Jenna, Donna, Jeff, Jimmy, Peggy, Kerry, Chris, and Chris. We also give you thanks for the unique gifts of Mike Donna, and Lani as they take on officer roles. Help us all to support each of your servants in word, deed, and prayer. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

God who cares for the suffering, care for survivors of assault and sexual abuse and sustain all who minister to them. Sustain the work of Safe Harbor and the Julie Valentine Center here in Greenville. Guide victims to safety. Keep safe any who live under threat of violence, those living in poverty, and any among us who are ill or in pain, especially those we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts ... God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

God, our holy parent and refuge, protect those without reliable housing, heat, transportation, and other basic needs as we face the bitter cold temperatures of winter. Soften and warm the hearts of local and national leaders who aim to legislate the unhoused off the streets without concern for their unique needs. Fling wide the doors of shelters and soup kitchens so that all who seek warmth and food may have access without testing and restriction. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection and new life, as the first disciples shared the good news, empower us and this faith community to be open to your call. When we are uncertain of your call, assure us. When we have strayed from your ways, redirect us. When religion and the church tell the queer community and others on the margins they are not worthy or capable of following you, clear a bold path for the truth of your inclusive love. Continue to fan the flames of your Holy Spirit in the hearts of those who are experiencing and living out your call to the ministry of the gospel. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

God who holds the saints against your tender bosom, we trust you welcome them into your care. Comfort those who grieve, even as we place our hope in your salvation. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

INSTALLATION OF CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

PEACE

The peace of Christ is with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.*

*Please be seated*

# MEAL

ANTHEM

*Heavenly Light*  
by A. Kopylov

Adult Choir

Sent from heaven, thy rays were given on great and small to shine, O Light Divine!  
May each soul in sorrow's night see the heavenly light! Thou blessing to all creation,  
lead us to our salvation! All those whose feet may falter, lead unto the sacred altar!  
Oh, shine from above, Divine light of love! Show us the way unto our God, we pray!  
Thou our beacon and guide shalt be! Light Divine, we praise thee!

*Please stand as able.*

OFFERING HYMN

*Arise, Your Light Has Come!*

#314

**Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.**

**Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;  
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born,  
bind up the broken hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, Holy One,  
**for all good things come from you.**  
**In bread and cup you open heaven to us.**  
**Meet us at this table,**  
**that we receive what we seek**  
**and follow your Son, Jesus,**  
**in whose name we pray.**  
**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

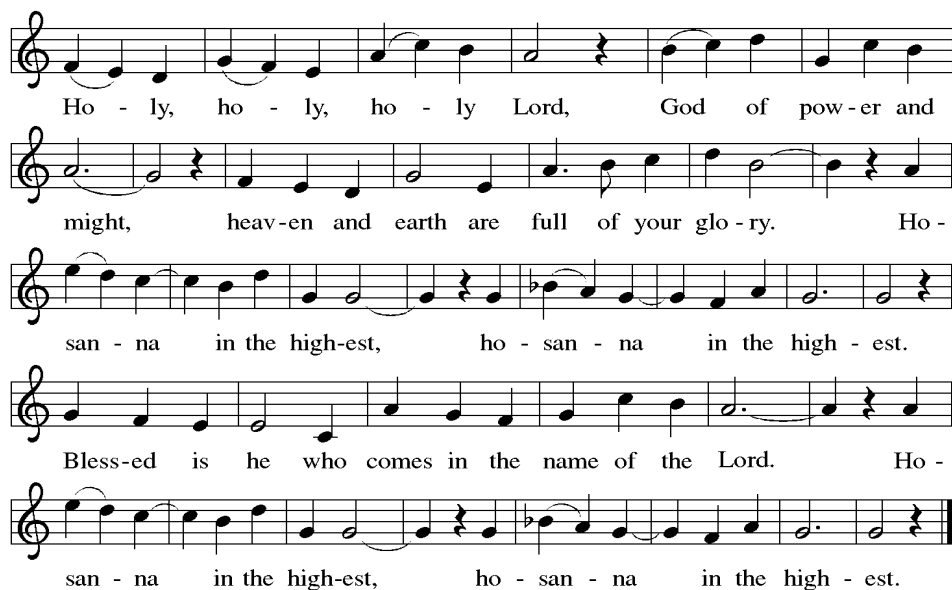
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;  
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son,  
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

#### THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God!**

*Please be seated*



## COMMUNION

*All, without exception, are welcome at the table of God's grace and love. Anyone preferring not to receive the wine may receive only the bread, completely trusting that the full benefit of communion — Christ's grace and forgiveness — may be found in either the bread or wine.*

*Gluten free wafers are available.*

*At the direction of the ushers, worshippers are invited to move to the front of the center aisle to dip the bread into the wine to receive Communion by intinction.*

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**You have come down to the lakeshore seeking  
neither the wise nor the wealthy, but only  
asking for me to follow. Refrain**

*Refrain*

***Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes; kindly smiling,  
you've called out my name. On the sand I have abandoned my  
small boat; now with you, I will seek other seas.***

**You know full well what I have, Lord: neither  
treasure nor weapons for conquest, just these my  
fishnets and will for working. Refrain**

**You need my hands, my exhaustion, working  
love for the rest of the weary- a love that's  
willing to go on loving. Refrain**

**You have fished other waters; you, the  
longing of souls that are yearning: O loving  
Friend, you have come to call me. Refrain**

**You are holy, you are whole. You are always ever more  
than we ever understand. You are always at hand.  
Blessed are you coming near. Blessed are you coming here  
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.**

**You are holy, you are wholeness,  
you are present. Let the cosmos praise you, Lord!  
Sing hosanna in the highest!  
Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to our God!**

*Bring Forth the Kingdom*

by Marty Haugen

**You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the kingdom of God!  
Share the flavor of life, O people: life in the kingdom of God!**

*Refrain*

**Bring forth the kingdom of mercy, bring forth the kingdom of peace;  
bring forth the kingdom of justice, bring forth the city of God!**

**You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the city of God!  
Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the kingdom of God! *Refrain***

**You are a seed of the word, O people: bring forth the kingdom of God!  
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the kingdom of God! *Refrain***

**We are a blest and a pilgrim people: bound for the kingdom of God!  
Love our journey and love our homeland: love is the kingdom of God! *Refrain***

*Please stand as able*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Giver of every gift,  
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.  
Raise us to life by your power  
for the benefit of all and to your glory,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

# SENDING

## BLESSING

God who names you,  
Christ who claims you,  
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,  
✠ bless you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*Shine, Jesus, Shine*

#671

*Refrain*

***Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;  
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!***

**Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the  
darkness, shining; Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us,  
set us free by the truth you now bring us.**

**Shine on me, shine on me: *Refrain***

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display  
your likeness, ever changing from glory to glory,  
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.**

**Shine on me, shine on me: *Refrain***

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace.  
Do justice.  
Love mercy.  
Walk humbly with God.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Everyone is invited to gather on the front lawn  
for refreshments and fellowship .*

*Baptized and Set Free*

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*Lord, Let My Heart Be Good soil*

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*Arise, Your Light Has Come!*

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*Baptized in Water*

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*Christ, Be Our Light*

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*Shine, Jesus, Shine*

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## CHURCH STAFF

Susan J. Crowell  
Senior Pastor

James C. Parham, III  
Associate Pastor for Worship and Music

Amy R. Brown, Deacon  
Director of  
Educational Ministries

Patrick D. Preacher  
Queer and Justice Ministry Coordinator  
Pastoral Intern

Angie H. McCormack  
Youth and Children's Ministry Coordinator

Kay M. Cook  
Office Manager

Henry W. Wilcox  
Accountant and  
Digital Media Manager

Karen M. Craig  
Administrative Assistant

Roy L. Cook  
Facilities Manager

Beth C. Oswald  
Nursery Attendant

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## CONGREGATION COUNCIL

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