

WELCOME & OPENING SENTENCES

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

PRELUDE

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise, arr. W. Wold¹

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The voice of God resounds upon the water.

People: The Spirit of the Lord hovers over the stream.

Leader: The Son of God is named, "Beloved."

People: And all who worship shout out, "Glory!"

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord majesty and strength.

People: Let us worship God in holy splendor.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

***HYMN 485**

We Know That Christ Is Raised, Engelberg²

1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more. Embraced by death he broke its fearful hold, and our despair he turned to blazing joy. Alleluia!

2 We share by water in his saving death. Reborn we share with him an Easter life as living members of a living Christ. Alleluia!

3 The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life. The Spirit's power shakes the church of God. Baptized, we live with God, the Three in One. Alleluia!

4 A new creation comes to life and grows as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood. The universe, restored and whole, will sing: Alleluia!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

We are precious in your sight, yet we often forget that we are your beloved. We confess that our love is fickle and inconstant. We follow selfish goals and deny that our way of life harms others and hurts your world. We are sorry and we want to change. Create in us a clean heart, strengthen our resolve, reconcile us one to another, and bless us with your peace (continue with individual confession...) Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Beloved, God forgives your sins; know that you are pardoned
and be at peace to love the Lord and serve the world.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

***ACCLAMATION HYMN 583**

Glory to God, Taize Ecumenical Community³

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Amy Poland

After the message, children may join the teacher for Children's Time in room 11.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."...

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

SERMON

In Good Company

***HYMN 177**

I Will Come to You, You Are Mine⁴

1 I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear. You will hear My voice, I claim you as My choice. Be still, and know I am here.

2 I am hope for all who are hopeless, I am eyes for all who long to see. In the shadows of the night, I will be your light. Come and rest in me.

Refrain: Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow Me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.

3 I am strength for all the despairing, healing for the ones who dwell in shame. All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and all will know my name **[Refrain]**

4 I am the Word that leads all to freedom, I am the peace the world cannot give. I will call your name, embracing all your pain. Stand up, now, walk, and live! **[Refrain]**

REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

OPENING SENTENCES

Micah 6:8

Leader: God has told you what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Leader: Sisters and brothers in Christ, our baptism is the sign and seal of our cleansing from sin, and of our being grafted into Christ. Through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ, the power of sin was broken and God's kingdom entered our world. Let us celebrate that freedom and redemption through the renewal of the promises made at our baptism. I ask you, therefore, once again to reject sin, to profess faith in Christ Jesus, and to confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we were baptized. Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

People: I do.

Leader: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

People: I do.

Leader: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

People: I will, with God's help.

Leader: Through our baptism we are made citizens of God's kingdom, and freed from the bondage of sin. Remember your baptism, and be thankful.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

PRAYER RESPONSE HYMN 467

*Give Us Light, Jyothi Dho*⁵

Give us light; give us light; give us light, O Lord.

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

*HYMN 547

Go, My Children, with My Blessing, Ar Hyd Y Nos⁶

1 Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone. Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own. In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever. Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

2 Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure. Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure. Here you heard my dear Son's story; here you touched him, saw his glory. Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

3 Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me. Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free. Here my Spirit's power filled you; here his tender comfort stilled you. Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

I Love Thee, My Lord, arr. G. Shearing⁷

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3 Music: Jacques Berthier, 1979 © 1979, 1981 Les Presses de Taize (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.) Used by Permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-703704.

4 Text and Music: David Haas, 1991. ©1991, GIA Publications, Inc. Used by Permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-703704.

5 Text: Charles Vas. Music: Charles Vas, alt. Text and Music: ©1990 Christian Conference of Asia (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.) Used by Permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-703704.

6 Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983. ©1983, Concordia Publishing House Music: Welsh Melody. Used by Permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-703704.

7 Music setting by George Shearing, ©1977 The Sacred Music Press. Used by Permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-703704.

Leaders Today:

Pastor: Rev. Scott Anderson

Minister of Music: Joe Chrisman

Ushers: Abe & Carrie Aberle

Liturgist: Erin Nass

AV/Tech: John Tarr



WPC ANNOUNCEMENTS - January 9

Worship Notes

Please take a moment to fill out the friendship form. Offerings and friendship forms may be placed in the plates as you exit the sanctuary. Pencils are available in the Narthex.

Sunday School

Adult Bible study/sermon talk-back resumes today at 11AM in the MJB Lounge.

New Book for Thursday Group

The next book, *The Girl with the Louding Voice*, is in the church office for \$13. The book is also available on Kindle. We'll begin discussing the book the following week on January 13th. All are still welcome!

Wednesday Bible Study

The Westminster Bible Study class will be studying the Gospel of Luke this spring and we invite you to join us. The Gospel of Luke is prominent in the upcoming lectionary passages and Scott plans to design worship and his preaching around the gospel. All interested in a layered approach to the Gospel of Luke in both worship and Bible Study are encouraged to join us for our study using New Testament scholar N.T. Wright's Luke For Everyone study guide resource.

Westminster's Spring Bible Study class will take place weekly on Wednesdays, from 12:30-2 pm, via Zoom, starting January 26th and continuing through mid-May. This Bible Study is for everyone, so all are welcome! Please let Katie in the Church Office know of your commitment to the class and your interest in ordering a Study Guide by January 12th so that books can be ordered and distributed prior to the first class. See you on January 26th!

Coffee Prep Help Needed

We are working on a schedule for coffee prep but still need some help for some near-future dates. Please consider being a coffee helper. It's an easy way to support the church and fellow parishioners! We have directions and will train you. You can even set up the coffee before Sunday. The sign up is on the coat-rack table in the narthex. If you have questions, please call Kathy Key at 608-640-0134.

January Intergenerational Yoga Guided Meditation

Join Nansi Colley on January 23rd at 11:00 am in the Narthex for yoga guided relaxation. Come dissolve your tensions and quiet your mind with yoga guided relaxation.

Nansi is Professor Emerita at UW-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health, and a Certified Svaroopa® Yoga and Meditation Teacher. This yoga program will use a combination of guided awareness and relaxation techniques as well as breathing practices that soften tensions and quiet your mind. You will experience a reliable, profound relaxation and a much needed respite from life's activities. You will release muscular tensions at the deepest levels, providing inner healing, as well as a calm, peaceful and focused mind. Wear comfortable clothing, and bring a blanket or beach towel. No experience needed. Participants will be seated or lying on the floor with legs up on the chair. This is appropriate for all ages and abilities!

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Care List (rotating weekly): Joyce Schultze, Nell Seiberlich, Shirley Toomey, Kathy Waggener, Wade Waggener

Members & Friends: Kelly McCann, Sue Dornfeld's granddaughter Nikki, Cindy Strategos (sister of Sandy Nuernberg) on the loss of her husband - Steve