

**SAINT JAMES  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

PO Box 684  
CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28026  
CHURCH OFFICE 704.786.0166  
WEBSITE [www.sjnc.net](http://www.sjnc.net)

**DIRECTORY**

Members of Saint James.....Ministers  
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton...Presiding Bishop  
The Rev. Dr. Timothy M. Smith.....Bishop

**SAINT JAMES STAFF**

**Rev. Bill Ridenhour**, Senior Pastor  
[prbill@sjnc.net](mailto:prbill@sjnc.net)

**Jill Irvin**, Finance Administrator  
[jill@sjnc.net](mailto:jill@sjnc.net)

**Scott F. Foppiano**, Organist /  
Director of Music  
[scottfop@gmail.com](mailto:scottfop@gmail.com)

**Teresa Honeycutt**, Custodian  
[tfh1990@yahoo.com](mailto:tfh1990@yahoo.com)

**Kathryn Radcliffe**, Nursery Coordinator  
[krad3700@gmail.com](mailto:krad3700@gmail.com)

**CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL**

Debbie Davis, President  
Jon Miller, Vice Pres., Mutual Ministry  
Chris Miller, Secretary, Social Ministry  
Kenny Propst, Treasurer

Chip Blackwelder, Property  
Kim Haberman, Evangelism  
Samantha Hillegass, Parish Fellowship  
Elizabeth Hurley, Worship & Music  
Beth Huss, Stewardship  
Frank Irvin, Finance/Christian Ed  
Pat McDonough, Youth  
Wendell Overby, Property  
Dee Pieschel, Social Ministry

**OFFICE HOURS**

Debbie Wilkinson, former St. James  
Administrator, will be serving on an  
interim basis. Debbie will plan to be in  
the office Monday-Thursday from  
10am-2pm.

**WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please email all information to the church office by  
Wednesday 10:00 am to [info@sjnc.net](mailto:info@sjnc.net)*

**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

- 01-Oct** Chase Lineberger  
Conner Lineberger  
Donae Yoos
- 03-Oct** Nicholas Crainshaw
- 04-Oct** Alex Holt  
Meghan Kuly
- 05-Oct** Dean Johnson, Jr.  
Charles Sloop
- 07-Oct** Theresa Steel

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP**

**Lector/Intercessor:**

Elizabeth Hurley

**Communion Assistant:**

Christine Ruff

**Acolyte/Crucifer:**

**Ushers:** Brad Baker, Chip  
Harward, Taylor Pruette, Al  
Pieschel, Jon Miller

**Building Supervisor:**

**Videographer:**

Chris Miller

**OUR STEWARDSHIP**

**Contributions and  
Receipts for Sept. 24, 2023  
\$5,687.14**

*(\$7,371.00 needed weekly)*

**In-Person Attendance:  
132**

**Online Worship**

**Return of WNT**

Wednesday Night Together  
dinner and program returns  
on October 4. For dinner  
purposes, please  
communicate your intention  
to join—[info@sjnc.net](mailto:info@sjnc.net)

**FLOWERS**

IN HONOR OF JO ENG ON  
HER BIRTHDAY GIVEN BY  
THE CARPENTER AND  
HABERMAN FAMILIES

**PRAYER LIST**

- ◆ Patsy Black
- ◆ Tom Grady
- ◆ Tom Ridenhour
- ◆ Bill Fisher

**CALENDAR THIS WEEK**

**Monday, October 2**

10:30 am Quilting Group  
7:00 pm Esther Circle

**Tuesday, October 3**

10:30 am Mary Magdalene  
Circle

5:00 pm Executive Comm  
6:00 pm Property Comm

**Wednesday, October 4**

5:30 pm Wednesday Nights  
Together

7:00 pm Parish Choir

**Thursday, October 5**

6:00 pm Handbells

**Sunday, October 8**

9:15 am Parish Choir  
10:00 am Worship

**CROP Walk**

St. James is registered as a  
team for this year's CROP  
Hunger Walk. It begins at  
Forest Hill UMC, 256 Union  
Street, next Sunday, October 8  
with sign up beginning at 1  
p.m. and walk at 2 p.m.  
Consider making a donation  
and/or registering to walk.

**Lively Leisures**

Will meet October 10 at noon.  
Rev. David Sloop will have the  
program



**Saint James  
Lutheran Church**



A Parish of the North Carolina Synod of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



*“Growing in Christ Through Worship, Learning,  
Fellowship and Service”*

*Welcome!*

St. James is a house of prayer  
where all people can come to  
know the compassionate heart  
of Jesus. We are a community  
of Christians where you can  
belong before you believe. At  
Saint James the beauty of  
ancient worship and  
traditional spiritual practices  
transform contemporary lives.  
Join us as together we  
discover the sacred in the  
heart of the city. Our worship  
includes ancient and  
contemporary symbols and  
practices along with preaching  
and music to inspire you to  
follow Jesus in your daily life.  
We welcome both the spiritual  
seeker and seasoned disciple  
to find their home in God with  
us. If you are looking for a  
spiritual home or just  
exploring the life of faith, we  
hope you will walk with us on  
that journey of discovery.

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST  
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**

**OCTOBER 1, 2023**

**10:00 A.M.**

*Introduction to Today's Worship*

**J**esus' parable about two sons who don't do  
what they say reveals surprises in the  
reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the  
people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair,  
while God offers repentance and new life. Paul  
urges us to look to Christ as a model of  
humility, putting the interests of others above  
our own. Nourished by the broken bread and  
shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of  
our needy world.

## Welcome!

**Newcomers and visitors**, we hope that you will feel at home in this place and in this liturgy. Ushers are available in the Narthex during the liturgy should you have any questions or concerns. Please be sure and sign the guestbook located in the Narthex and introduce yourself to the Pastor or to an usher so that we can extend to you a warm welcome.

**Although there are customary postures** (such as standing and kneeling) in Lutheran worship, you are invited to be seated at any point, according to your needs and comfort.

**Children are most welcome in worship** at Saint James Church. For those who desire it, nursery care is provided on the first floor of the Education Building.

**First Aid Kits and the Automatic External Defibrillators (AED)** are located outside the church office door, immediately behind the Sanctuary, at the bottom of the stairs in the Portico area and in the Narthex. Fire extinguishers are located in the Sacristy and in the Narthex.

**If you are interested in membership** to this parish or desire a call from the Pastor, please indicate this to an usher or to the Pastor.

**Restrooms are available** on the first and second floors of the Education Building.

**Pew Pads** are on the end of each pew (*near center aisle*), please sign and pass so that we have a record of your attendance and communion.

### **St. James Lutheran Church Facebook and Instagram groups**

Send Joseph Beasley any pictures and/or articles you would like to have posted at [joseph.f.beasley@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.f.beasley@gmail.com) @stjamesnc

**St. James YouTube Channel** Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) search for stjameslutheranconcord and subscribe.

### **UPCOMING DATES:**

**Oct. 2** Quilting Group 10:30am  
Esther Circle 7pm

**Oct. 3** Mary Magdalene Circle 10:30am  
Executive Committee 5pm  
Property Committee 7pm

**Oct. 4:** WNT 5:30 pm  
Parish Choir 7pm

**Oct 5:** Handbells 6pm

**Oct 8:** CROP Walk 2:00 pm

**Oct 10:** Lively Leisures

**BLESSING BOX:** St James has the opportunity to stock the blessing box at Rotary Square. Items can be put directly into the box or placed in the red Blessing Box bin that is just inside the Portico area.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY** *Grand Choeur from 12 Pieces* Theodore DuBois

*The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!*



### **COPYRIGHT**

**MUSIC:** Used with permission under ONE LICENSE A-735002 All rights reserved.

**LITURGY:** From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License SAS002140



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.  
 2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.  
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to- geth-er, Je- sus Christ is liv- ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.  
 Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.  
 Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.  
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.  
 Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.



Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

**WELCOME****OPENING VOLUNTARY***Two Communion Meditations**Everett Titcomb**Congregational Responses in Bold***(Stand)****CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**(Kneel or sit, as able)***Silence is held for reflection and self-examination*

Most Merciful God,

**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**  
**Amen**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**(Stand)**

**GATHERING HYMN**    *As We Gather at Your Table*    In Babilone



1 As we gath-er at your ta-ble, as we lis-ten to your word,  
2 Turn our wor-ship in-to wit-ness in the sac-ra-ment of life;  
3 Gra-cious Spir-it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.  
where tri-um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa-cred sto-ry till we claim it as our own;  
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for-give as you for-gave;  
There no more will en-vy blind us nor will pride our peace de-stroy,



teach us through this ho-ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic-t'ry known.  
may we still be-hold your im-age in the world you died to save.  
as we join with saints and an-gels to re-peat the sound-ing joy.

**APOSTOLIC 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.**

*Jesus bids all the baptized to feast at his table. Please come by way of the center aisle and return by the side aisle. If you need help figuring out where and when to go, an usher or fellow worshiper will help you. At one time we too were confused. For those unable to partake of wine, white grape juice is available. Those who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. If you are unable to come to the altar, the pastor will bring communion to you at your seat. Please advise an usher.*

**LAMB OF GOD**    *Choir and Congregation*



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.

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us; we are bold to pray,  
**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.**

### DISTRIBUION

*(Sit)*

**Q: What is the Sacrament of the Altar?**

**A: Instituted by Christ himself, it is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, give to us Christians to eat and to drink.**

**Q: What is the benefit of such eating and drinking?**

**A: We are told in the words 'for you' and 'for the forgiveness of sins.' By these words the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation are given to us in the sacrament, for where there is forgiveness of sins, there are also life and salvation.**

-Luther's Small Catechism Part V

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, you call us to work in your vineyard and leave no one standing idle. Set us to our tasks in the work of your kingdom, and help us to order our lives by your wisdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*(Sit)*

### YOUNG DISCIPLES' TIME / CHILDREN'S CHURCH

#### FIRST READING *EZEKIEL 18:1-4, 25-32*

A reading from Ezekiel.

<sup>1</sup>The word of the Lord came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

<sup>5</sup>Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 25:1-9** (Read Responsively, congregation in bold)

<sup>1</sup>To | you, O LORD,

I lift | up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be | put to shame;

rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your | ways, O LORD,  
and teach | me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your | truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,  
for they are from | everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;

remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness,

O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the low- | ly in justice

and teach the low- | ly your way.

**SECOND READING PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13**

A reading from Philippians, the second chapter.

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Blessed are you,

**O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be 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 and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; won this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, 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'r and might,  
 ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full, 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.

For the unbaptized and for those who have ceased to worship, for our lips to be willing to invite them. Form us to be a people ready to welcome, listen and change. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For a Spirit of healthy discourse and disagreement, for the power of the Spirit to raise up among us a common vision for your church in this place. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression and disgrace; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

That we may end of our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For all the saints now resting from their labors; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

*The Pastor concludes the prayers.*

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

*(This can be done verbally with no physical contact, if desired)*

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*(Sit)*

**ANTHEM**      *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

*Harold W. Friedell*

**OFFERING**      *(Offering plates presented at the altar)*      **(Stand)**

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(Stand)*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL *MATTHEW 21:23-32*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ <sup>26</sup>But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ <sup>29</sup>He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Sit)*

HYMN OF THE DAY *O God beyond All Praising*

Thaxted

1 O God be-yond all prais - ing, we wor-ship you to - day  
 2 The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time must sure - ly die,  
 3 Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,  
 and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can - not re - pay;  
 its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;  
 that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;  
 for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,  
 but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown -  
 and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,  
 at bless - ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with - out end:  
 though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav - en's gar - den grown:  
 we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:  
 we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,  
 for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,  
 to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,  
 we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.  
 and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.  
 and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith.

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

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

**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.**

*(Kneel or sit, as able)*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

*Each petition concludes, "Lord, in your mercy" and the congregation responds "hear our prayer."*

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy church of God, and for the unity of all peoples; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For the civil authorities, for leaders of nations that their leadership may serve and protect all people and foster compassion and justice. For our city of Concord, for every city and community and for those who live in them. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For reasonable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, for the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and the will to conserve it; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**