

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Janet Potter

Liturgist: Les Cramer

Organist: Ann Swisher

*Please meditate silently, or listen to the prelude
as you prepare your heart for worship.*

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE "O Man, Mourn for Your Many Sins"

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

EXTINGUISHING THE LIGHT

When we prepare for Christmas, we light a new candle each Sunday. As we prepare for Good Friday, we extinguish a candle each Sunday to remind us of the approaching darkness of betrayal and death. Each Sunday, another candle will be extinguished, until the final candle goes out on Good Friday.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 95:1-7

One: As we are called into worship today, it is disheartening to remember that when God appeared on earth in the person of Jesus, most of the world did not recognize him and therefore did not worship him. Today we ask for the faith that will open our eyes to see Jesus for who he is, that we might worship him in truth. People of God, behold and see your God!

ALL: We open our eyes to see his glory. We open our ears to hear his wisdom. We open our hands to offer him gifts. We open our mouths to sing his praise. We open our hearts to offer him our love. He is Lord!

*GATHERING HYMN

"Arise, Your Light Is Come"

GtG #744

Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,

which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captives' liberty,
good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION

God, our comforter and guide, we confess what comes between us and you. We have been blind to the faults in ourselves that we so readily detect in others: prizing appearance and credentials, and failing to see the heart; rushing headlong into temptation, without thought for what is right; keeping secret what would shame us, if it were known; denying truths voiced by people we disdain. God of light, expose to us our sin, that we may confess it and turn from it, and so live in the light of your forgiveness and love. *(a moment of silent prayer)*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PEACE OF CHRIST

*GLORIA PATRI

GtG #581

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, amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Take Up Your Cross”

R. Christopher Teichler, Charles Everest

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

Psalm 23

Page 862

SERMON SCRIPTURES

John 9:1-41

Page 1664

Ephesians 5:8-14

Page 1822

SERMON

“Encountering Jesus: Along the Way”

*RESPONSE HYMN

“Christ, Be Our Light”

GtG #314

(vs. 1, 2, 5)

Longing for light,
we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own,
your holy people,
light for the world to see.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church
gathered today.

Longing for peace,
our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power
to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church
gathered today.

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn
to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church
gathered today.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Christ, the Lamb of God”

J.S. Bach

*DOXOLOGY “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

GtG #606

Praise God, from whom all
blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here
below;

Praise him above,
ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son,
and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Bless these gifts, gracious God, and bless all those who will be served because of them. We bring these offerings because we hope for more in the days ahead. We hope for a stronger church, a more compassionate world, and a time of peace. Shape us, through our giving, into people more faithful to your Word and a people full of joy and good news. We dedicate them along with our lives and all that we are. Bless the lives of all your children. Amen.

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

UNISON LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING HYMN

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

GtG #547

"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."

"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.”

“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 my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children,
fed and nourished,
joyful and free.”

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“All Men Are Mortal”

J.S. Bach

Announcements

Welcome to Worship

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us this morning. Please sign the red fellowship pad in your pew and pass it to your neighbor. After the service, please join us for coffee, snacks, and conversation. You can also contribute by volunteering to bring treats for Fellowship Time. Sign up on the sheet on the coffee table.

Snacks & Conversation March 26

Join Pastor Janet for Snacks and Conversation following worship on Sunday, March 26, beginning at 11:20! We'll meet upstairs in the dining room/Richardson Hall. The Fellowship Committee will provide the snacks but feel free to bring a personal sack lunch to supplement the snacks. The March 26 discussion topic is about the community and the congregation. We'll finish by 12:45. No rsvp needed, just come!

Refugee Food Baskets

Prompted by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, we will again purchase Refugee Food Baskets from the Giving Catalog to offer our support. The baskets extend a caring hand of food and essential supplies to those struggling to provide food for themselves and their families. Baskets are \$50 each, but donations of partial amounts will be combined. Please give soon, this campaign will end March 31st to provide the much-needed aid more quickly. Please designate “food baskets” on your donation. Thank you for your support.

TIM Talk Offered April 16-18 *(date has changed)*

Three TIM (Theology in Ministry) Talks are offered for adults at Glacier Camp this year. The first one, “Where Shall Wisdom Be Found?” is scheduled for April 16-18. The Rev. Tim Lanham, Glacier Camp Executive Director, leads these multi-day Bible study experiences. The program begins Sunday evening with dinner at 5:30 p.m. and concludes Tuesday with a sack lunch. To register, call 406-844-2114 or email Pastor Tim at: timothy@glaciercamp.org. Details are available on the camp website: www.glaciercamp.org.

Fun Day Sunday April 2

We all know God has a sense of humor, right?!!

The Fellowship Committee invites you to participate in a fun event on Sunday, April 2nd. Ladies are invited to find and dust off your best hat or create a fun new hat. The gents are invited to find your best old-timey tie or your funniest tie. Enjoy your search! Your hat or tie doesn't need to match your dress or shirt; it can be begged for or borrowed, old, new, or freshly created. Let's wear them to church and display our sense of humor! Let's take this opportunity to make each other smile! God will!

Registration Open for Summer Camps

“With God all things are possible,” is the theme for Glacier Camp's 2023 summer camps. Full-week programs are offered for students entering grades 3-12, and Mini Camps are offered for children entering grades 1-2. The camp season runs June 18 –Aug. 5. Brochures are available in the fellowship area and on the camp's website: www.glaciercamp.org

Card Games Every Friday

Hand and Foot card games are being played on Fridays at 1:30 p.m. Come, join the fun in the Fellowship area. Never played? No problem! The game is easy to learn, and willing teachers abound.

Toiletries, Coupons Needed

We are still collecting toiletries and coupons for distribution to those in need. Tonna Strasko delivers the coupons to two women in need of assistance with expenses, and the toiletries (small, travel size) go to the folks at God's Love. If we collect enough, she will also take some to the Friendship Center and YWCA. You can drop your donations in the baskets just inside the main doors, to the right. Thank you!

You're Invited:

Tuesday, March 21

Session 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 22

Choir 6:30 p.m.

Friday, March 24

Newsletter articles due

Bible Study 12 Noon

Hand & Foot Cards 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 26

Worship 10 a.m.

Social Time 11 a.m.

Snacks & Conversation 11:20 a.m.

(with Pastor Janet)

