

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Congregation of the ELCA

28200 Portsmouth Drive, Sun City, CA 92586 * (951) 679-1518

Email: faithlutheranmenifee@gmail.com

Guest Pastor: Pr. Rex Wignall

OFFICE HOURS: Tues & Thurs 8:30 - 5:00; Fri 8:30 - 12:30

Worship Plan for Sunday, February 1, 2026 * Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

WELCOME TO FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, where grace and love abound. While we wait and prepare for a new pastor, we invite you to participate fully in the vibrant life of the congregation, and to join us in prayer as we continue to serve God and God's people during this time of transition.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Enriching lives through faith and God's grace.

MEMBERS & GUESTS: Please fill out a worship attendance card found in the pew racks. Prayer requests may be included on the reverse side for one Sunday or bulletin publication.

INVITATION TO BAPTISM: We would like to extend to you the blessing of Baptism and encourage you to contact the church office to be baptized.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION: Christ is truly present through the power of God's Holy Spirit. We invite everyone to come forward and be renewed in the covenant God made with us in our baptism. All are gladly invited and welcome. If, in coming forward, you choose not to receive the Sacrament, we ask you to fold your hands over your chest so you may receive a pastoral blessing. The Sacrament will be brought to those unable to come forward to the altar (notify an usher). Available upon request: gluten-, wheat-, corn-, dairy- and soy-free wafers.

CHILDREN'S COMMUNION: Families are encouraged to come to the rail together during the distribution. Children may receive Communion or a special blessing from the Pastor.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School for children of all ages is immediately following the Children's Chat.

CELL PHONES: Please silence your cell phones before Worship.

Following worship, ALL are invited to join us for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.

Introduction to the day

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

GOSPEL MESSAGE: Something Bigger Than Us

The beatitudes could easily be read as a list of rewards and consequences, and the kind of behaviors that will merit one or the other. We are well accustomed to understanding the world in such terms. Children receive rewards for good behavior. Students earn awards or scholarships. Athletes win medals or trophies. Success is a ladder we climb and, if we've done our part, our job is rewarded in the end.

Jesus talks about a great reward, but it's not one we can earn. On a closer look, the nature of many of the so-called "blessings" in the beatitudes is as much about what is done to us as about anything we do for ourselves. Jesus begins his sermon by going up the mountain, but his words push us not to new heights but to greater depths. Poverty of spirit, mourning, meekness, hunger, thirst, and persecution—these are not behaviors to strive toward for a reward. Instead, they are circumstances in which we can find ourselves when the ladder we've been climbing falls to the ground. Alternatively, to be merciful or pure in heart or a peacemaker is to choose to get off the ladder altogether for the sake of something bigger than our small selves.

The beatitudes as a whole suggest that Jesus wants more for us than simply collecting a heavenly prize in the end. His blessings assure us that all along the way, no matter our circumstances, we have an inherent, God-given dignity that no one and nothing can strip from us. At the table of Christ, all who hunger and thirst for righteousness are filled. This meal isn't awarded to us for a job well done. Rather, it feeds us for the work still to be done, that of sharing God's mercy and peace with others.

Please stand for the Processional

PROCESSIONAL *Come, All You People: Uyaimose* (ELW 819)

Text: Alexander Gondo; tr. I-to Loh, b. 1936, alt. Text © 1986 World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland, and the Asian Institute of Liturgy & Music, notation and English paraphrase by I-to Loh.

AM: WELCOME

Good morning! It's wonderful to see all of you this morning! Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church, where grace and love abound and the Holy Spirit uplifts and inspires us. A special welcome to those joining us on line, to those of you who are here for the first time, and to our guest pastor, Rex Wignall. Exciting things are happening here during our search for a permanent pastor, and everyone is encouraged to participate fully, whether you are a first-time visitor, or have been here awhile. You are ALWAYS welcome!

AM: ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers were provided by Marlene Rosselli in memory of Jacob, and by the Puccios in memory of Pr. Ken Anderson.

WELCA is taking a survey for anyone interested in an in-person evening Bible Study. Please pick up and complete the one-page survey by today.

Plan to join the Project Linus Blanket Brigade beginning this Saturday, Feb 7 from 9am-12pm. Bring your friends and enjoy some good fellowship time while you sit and tie fleece blankets for Project Linus. Pick up a flyer in the narthex for details.

The Patriots and Seahawks will be playing in the NFL Superbowl next Sunday! It's time again for the Faith Lutheran Soup-er Bowl! In the Narthex you will find 2 large boxes each marked with the logos of the Superbowl teams. Bring as many cans of soup as you'd like by Superbowl Sunday (next Sunday, Feb 8th) and put them in the box representing the team you're cheering for! All cans of soup will be donated to the Community Cupboard. In Faith's Soup-er Bowl, there are no losers...only winners!!

Next Sunday, the 8th is also New Member Sunday! Don't miss out on the opportunity to meet our new members.

Be sure you've marked Feb. 22nd as the date for our Annual Meeting! Lunch will be served following the meeting!

New Donation Day flyers are available in the narthex. Please note the additional items of non-perishable food (for Community Cupboard) and 100% cotton fabric for quilting (Snip 'N Stitch) that can also be donated.

Please be sure to sign up to donate flowers, and empty out your mailboxes.

This quarter (January - March) Outreach is collecting Protein or Granola Bars and Body Wash (for men or women) for MilVet. The items will be used in monthly boxes sent to deployed military. The donation box is in the Narthex.

For February, we are collecting peanut butter, grocery bags, and empty egg cartons. Please place donations in the wire basket in the foyer.

For more information and a complete monthly calendar, contact the church office.

SILENCE

P: Let us take a moment of silence to quiet our hearts and minds and prepare for worship.

P: GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

P: 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.

This is the day that the Lord has made,

let us rejoice and be glad in it!

AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 302

Please stand as you are willing and able.

GATHERING SONG: *As with Gladness Men of Old* (ELW 302)

Public Domain; Sources: Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.; Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

P: CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.


Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive 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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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.

P: PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S CHAT

P: WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST LESSON INTRODUCTION

The scene is a sixth century B.C. courtroom. The people of God are on trial and God the Almighty is the prosecuting attorney. The charges of infidelity and

rebellion are brought forward but the defendants remain mute. They have no defense.

The people are charged with having forgotten the Lord's mighty works of redemption and the wealth of past blessings. In verse three he puts them on the witness stand to make their case but they apparently have nothing to say.

Verse five describes a story from the book of Numbers, chapters 22-25, how Balak, king of Mideon, was concerned about the size of the Israelite population and sent emissaries to Balaam, asking that Balaam would curse the Israelites. Instead in each of the three times Balak asked Balaam to curse Israel, God instructed Balaam to bless them instead because God had already blessed the people.

Then, in verse 6, Micah, as God's prophet and representative of the people, asks how it might be possible to come before the Lord. God responds in verse 8. The prescription that follows for how one can stand before the judgment seat of God is one of the most exalted in the Old Testament.

LECTOR: FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

¹ Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ² Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³ "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD." ⁶ "With what shall I come before the LORD and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" ⁸ He has told you, O mortal, 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?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM INTRODUCTION

The message of Psalm 15 is the same that we read in the other Lectionary Texts for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany. Micah 6:1-8 and Matthew 5:1-12 are familiar passages. Micah tells that God does not want burnt offering or animal sacrifices; God wants justice, kindness, and a humble walk before God. Jesus, in Matthew's gospel talks about the make-up of the Kingdom of Heaven -- those who are meek, those who are merciful, those who are peacemakers.

The message of Psalm 15, and of Micah 6 and Matthew 5, seems to be to be that God is not so much interested in whether we get the ritual right -- the invocation, the litany, the music, the sermon, as God is interested in whether our attitude and actions are right as we enter into the sanctuary.

LECTOR: PSALMODY: Psalm 15

¹ LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

² **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;**

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

Amen.

SECOND LESSON INTRODUCTION

Last week's second lesson dealt with the problem of divisions in the church. In today's lesson, Paul digs to the root of the matter, spiritual pride. The Greeks elevated reason and they were at the point of thinking that they could approach God through a correct understanding of spiritual matters. Paul knocks human reason and wisdom off its pedestal, claiming that God saves not through human wisdom but through the foolishness of preaching.

LECTOR: SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

LECTOR: Please stand for the gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL INTRODUCTION

On this day when the ridiculous becomes the obvious, when weakness is touted as strength, the emphasis is on the defining characteristics of those who belong to God – their humble spirit, meekness, gentleness, and so forth. These blessed ones are those who are in tune with their own weakness and realize that they have nothing to boast of and so they place their trust in God. The Beatitudes, a part of a larger collection of our Lord's teachings called the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapters 5-7, are not laws of God or a prescription for righteousness. They are a portrait of God's saints. The gospel lesson fulfills the theme of humility and lowliness found in the first two lessons.

P: GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying: ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: “The Be Attitudes” by Pr. Rex

AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 720

Please stand as you are willing and able.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *We Are Called* (ELW 720)

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AM: APOSTLE'S CREED

We continue as we confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

CREED

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

AM: Please be seated for the Prayers of Intercession

PASTOR AND ASSISTING MINISTER: PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way, especially Emily; the family of Stephen Altherr; Susan Bauerle; Ian Berger; Mary Booth; Arnette Calkins; Rich and Sandy Chandler; the family of Freddie Connelly; Jeff Cook; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz; Debbie Ehrig; Sandy Evers; Frank Harrison IV; Doris Hays; Sarge Hunter; Donna McCain; Sandra Miller; Carol Morris; Michael Myers; Esther Neumen; Marilyn Rieti; Amy Sinclair; Shalonne Stone; Joyce Stromberg; Diane Swarts; Diana Ward; Harold Whitford; the homebound; the emergency responders; the San Bernardino Community Wellness Campus; and those grieving and anticipating surgery or tests. At this time, we also pray for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts: Look on your Church with grace and guide the minds of those on the Call Committee who shall discern a pastor for this congregation, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

P: PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

P: OFFERING

Let us remember at this time of Offering, that all we have and all we are given are gifts from God. Our offerings of time, talent and treasures are expressions of gratitude to God for all we have received. May we show abundant gratitude.

This morning's offering, including our prayers and pledges, will now be brought forward and lifted up to God during the Musical Offering.

Please feel free to either listen to our musical offering or sing along

MUSICAL OFFERING: *Give Thanks*

With Pr. Ken on guitar

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AM: OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

P: GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 152)

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.

P: PREFACE (ELW p. 153)

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ALL SING)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might. Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

P: THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

P: INSTRUCTION FOR COMMUNION

As you are comfortable, you are invited to come forward to receive communion. All of God's children are welcome to Christ's table. Gather at the altar rail to receive the communion elements or if you wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. You may commune yourself once you've received the communion elements. Please hold out your hands to receive the bread from the Pastor. Then pick up a cup of red wine or white grape juice from the Communion Server. A gluten-free option is available upon request. Please deposit empty cups in the provided baskets/trays on your way back to your seat unless they are collected at the altar. If you would like communion brought to you at your seat,

indicate by raising your hand for the Assisting Minister to see and they will bring communion to you.

P: INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

DURING DISTRIBUTION: *What Feast of Love* (ELW 487)

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***Let Us Break Bread Together* (ELW 471, vs. 1-3) with Pr. Ken on guitar**

Public Domain; Sources: Text: African American spiritual; Music: African American spiritual

***Break Now the Bread of Life* (ELW 515)**

Public Domain; Sources: Text: Mary A. Lathbury, 1841–1913, alt.; Music: William F. Sherwin, 1826–1888

***Eat This Bread: Jesus Christ, Bread of Life* (ELW 472)**

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P: COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

AM: PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

P: BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

P: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 728

Please stand as you are willing and able.

SENDING SONG: *Blest Are They* (ELW 728)

With Pr. Ken on guitar

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AM: INVITATION

We would like to invite guests and visitors to come and meet us in the narthex as you exit so that our council members can welcome you, and you can join us in the Fellowship Hall for cookies, coffee and conversation.

AM: DISMISSAL

AM: Unto us a Savior is born! Go share the Good News!

C: Thanks be to God!! We will!

THIS WEEK AT FAITH

Tuesday, the 3rd: Worship & Music meets at 10:00

Thursday, the 5th: Snip 'N Stitch meets at 9:00

Friday, the 6th: Al-Anon meets at 10:30

Saturday, the 7th: Donation Day and the Blanket Brigade is 9:00 – 12:00

Sunday, the 8th: Worship begins at 9:30 with Pr. Shane. New Member Sunday!

THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY:

ASSISTING MINISTER: Roderick

LECTOR: Candy

COMMUNION SERVER: Kandie

POWER POINT: Bill

USHER: Annie

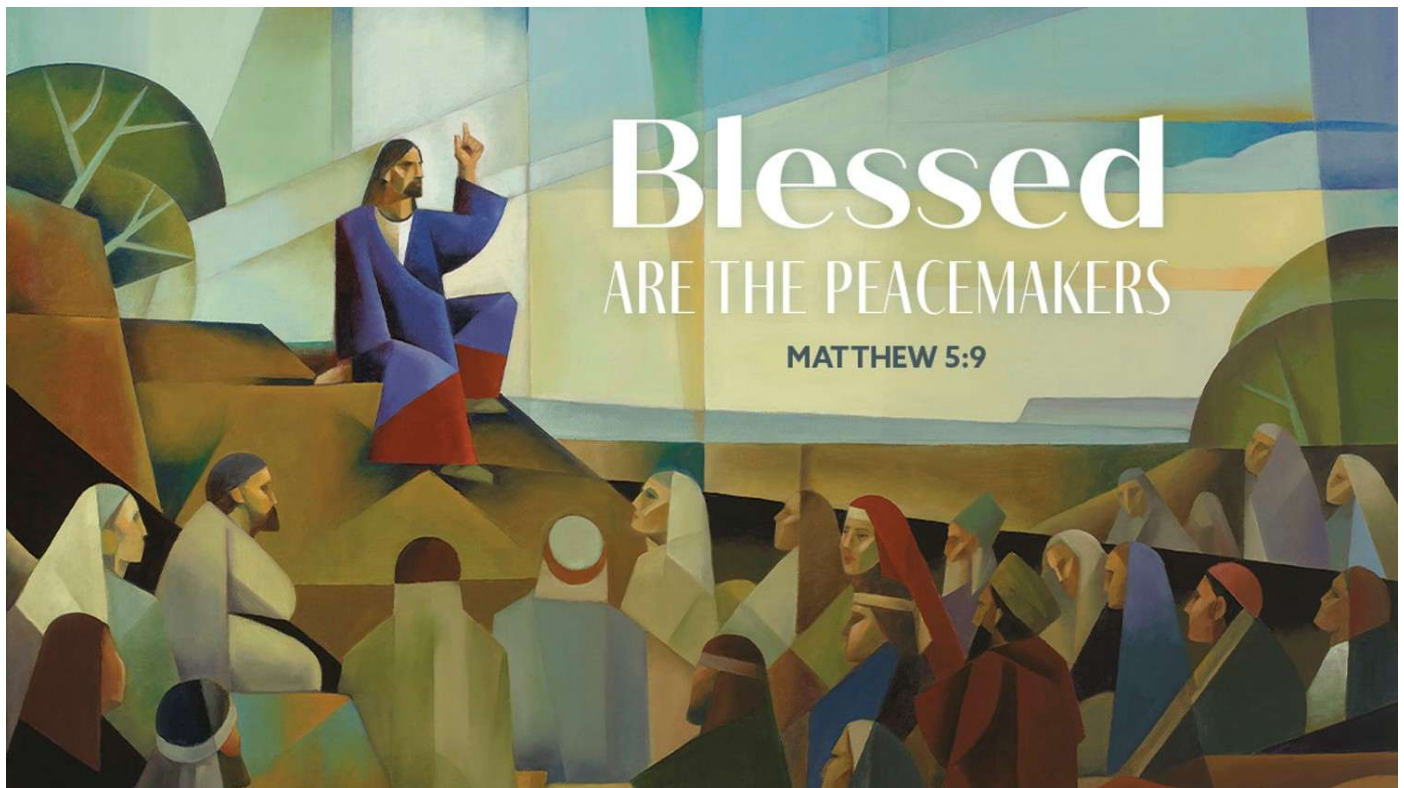
ATTENDANCE: Judy Ad.

GREETER: Jean

ALTAR GUILD: Mars, Diane M.

SOUND: Mars

LIVE STREAM: Madeline



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NO FEES
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