



BLESSED TO SHARE THE BLESSING IN THE SMOKY MOUNTAINS

Fourth Sunday of Advent 12/20

Pastor

Robert M. Portier
Pastor Emeritus
Linsey H. Dettmer

Choir Director
Gary McCaffity

Organists
Barbara Jones &
Jolanta Didenko

Sunday School 9:45 AM

Worship

Saturday 6 PM
Sunday: 8:30 & 11 AM
Wednesday: 6 PM

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1610 Pullen Road
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NOW TO GOD WHO IS ABLE TO

STRENGTHEN

YOU ACCORDING TO MY GOSPEL
AND THE PROCLAMATION OF
JESUS CHRIST



ROMANS 16:25, NRSV

Hymn of Invocation

332 Savior of the Nations, Come

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|--|---|
| 1 Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth. | 3 Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne. |
| 2 Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh. | 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began. |

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Confession and Absolution *Setting 3 begins on page 184*

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the

command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the The Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit *Read responsively*

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;*
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his | handiwork.*

In them he has set a tent | for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his | chamber,*
and, like a strong man, runs its | course with joy.

**Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the | end of them,*
and there is nothing hidden | from its heat.**

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;
**as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;*
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit.

† Kyrie

C Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all

his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, “Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’ Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . . .

And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 89:1-5 *Read responsively*

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, for- | ever;*

with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all gener- | ations.

For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up for- | ever;*

in the heavens you will establish your | faithfulness.”

You have said, “I have made a covenant with my | chosen one;*

I have sworn to David my | servant:

‘I will establish your offspring for- | ever,*

and build your throne for all gener- | ations.’”

Let the heavens praise your wonders, | O LORD,*

your faithfulness in the assembly of the | holy ones!

Epistle Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the

preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel Luke 1:26-38

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

900 Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
 Name all other names above,
 Unto which must ev'ry knee
 Bow in deep humility.</p> | <p>4 Jesus! Name of mercy mild,
 Given to the holy Child
 When the cup of human woe
 First He tasted here below.</p> |
| <p>2 Jesus! Name decreed of old,
 To the maiden mother told,
 Kneeling in her lowly cell,
 By the angel Gabriel.</p> | <p>5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n
 Under all the mighty heav'n
 Whereby those to sin enslaved
 Burst their fetters and are saved.</p> |
| <p>3 Jesus! Name of priceless worth
 To the fallen of the earth
 For the promise that it gave,
 "Jesus shall His people save."</p> | <p>6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
 Human name of God above;
 Pleading only this, we flee
 Helpless, O our God, to Thee.</p> |

Sermon

Pre-communion Litany

Inside front cover

Offering (Please place your offering in the white box as you enter or depart)

(As we sing the offertory pastor raises the offering plate as a wave offering for all of our tithes and offerings given in person or by mail or via the internet)

† Offertory

C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up unto the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary.....evermore praising You and saying:

† Sanctus (*Holy*)

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini (*The Peace of the Lord*)

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

† Agnus Dei (*Lamb of God*)

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.
Amen.

Distribution Hymns

¶ Nunc Dimittis (*Now Dismiss*) (*Song of Simeon*)

**C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
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.**

Thanksgiving

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C and His mercy endureth forever.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Salutation & Benedicamus (*we bless / we praise*)

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

A Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and **T** give you peace.

C Amen

Closing Hymn

332 Savior of the Nations, Come

- 5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.
- 6 For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.
- 7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.
- 8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

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Announcements

Our Friends in need of prayer:

Judy Schuller	Donna Allen	Jim Wagner
James Huling	Dick Medley	Charles Schuller
Bruce Rispoli	Emil Mariani	Pat Dettmer
The grieving Brown family		

Pre - Service meditation:

Reading and meditating on the Psalm, the Introit, and the text the bulletin can be helpful in your pre-service meditation.

This Week at a Glance:

TODAY Worship Services @ 8:30 9:45 & 11 AM,
 Sunday School @ 9:45 AM

MON LWML meets @ 6:30 PM

WED Bible study @ 5 PM & Worship @ 6PM (non communion)

FRI Women's Bible Study @ 10 AM

SAT Men's Bible Study @ 9 AM
 10:30 AM Home Bodies Zoom Room Bible Study.
 Worship Service @ 6 PM

SUN Worship Services @ 8:30 9:45 & 11 AM

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: Reading over and studying the text for the coming week can enrich your personal prayer and study time and your worship time. The text for Wednesday is Revelation 7:2-8 (9-17) and next weekend is Amos 5:18-24.

When it is again safe to resume choir practice, we will inform you.

Service Schedule: Until further notice

Saturday 6pm Communion service

Sunday 8:30, 9:45 & 11:00 AM Communion

Wednesday 6 pm non-communion

In compliance with all current CDC, Guidelines:

- Social distancing remains in place
- Households that travel together may sit and commune together
- Sharing of the peace is replaced with a wave of peace
- Pews and other surfaces will be wiped down
after the closing hymn is over
- Offering & prayer request box is at the entrance and exit.
- The entry doors will be propped open,
- Take your bulletin with you or throw it away

- If you use a hymnal, please wipe it down
- We will all enter through the narthex and exit through the door on the left, next to the lectern, in the front of the sanctuary. When people are arriving for the next service, as necessary

-

Please socialize outside.

Communion Practices

Common cup will be available

Standing at the rail 2 households at a time

(one on the lectern side and one on the pulpit side, no kneeling yet)

An elder will assist the pastor

Communion cup bowls on brass post will be used.

Communion blessing / dismissal will continue to be one after all commune.

Mask Guidance will remain in place as long as necessary.

1. Masks should be worn upon entering the narthex and before being seated in the sanctuary.
2. Since we are seated in accordance with the protocol for social distancing, the mask may be removed when seated in the sanctuary.
3. Masks are to be worn as we proceed to and return from communion and can be removed once seated again.
4. At the end of the service, masks are to be put back on and worn until outside the building. However, if for any reason you are unable to wear a mask you are still welcome to join us for worship.

***A simple way to remember when to where a mask is :
when moving in doors, if you are able, you should have a mask on.***

If you wish to purchase altar flowers, please put your name on the altar flower chart in the

narthex. The cost is \$40 for two tall vase bouquets, for any questions contact Rod or Jean Kuszynski.

Altar Flowers:
In celebration of
Dean and Gail Bidle's Wedding Anniversary