FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

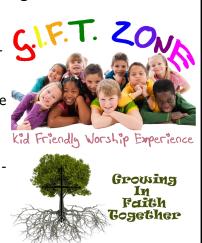
April 29, 2018 - 10:45 AM



This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding that we read of in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

G.I.F.T. Zone Opportunity For Parents & Young Children

We introduce our kid-friendly worship experience, located in the left-hand transept area of the main sanctuary. For families who wish to take advantage of the G.I.F.T. Zone, there is child-friendly worship furniture plus adult chairs for parents. Feel free to sit in the special area throughout the service with your child - or come to the area with your child following the Children's Message. During this middle section of the service, Deacon Lexanne Graves will be in the area to guide parents and children through activities to help our youngest worshipers follow the readings, sermon, hymn, creed, and prayers. This is an awesome way to keep children engaged in worship with the whole congregation - and learn the liturgy until they are able to worship in the pews for the entire service. We offer the G.I.F.T. Zone so that parents may share the worship experience with their children in a meaningful, stress-free way. At the 10:45 service, our nursery is also available for ages 0 - 3 (for those yet unable to benefit from the G.I.F.T. Zone activities.)



Living Springs Lutheran Church

4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223 www.livingspringscolumbia.org

GATHERING MUSIC

We pause for reflection to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Baptismal Anniversaries: David Giertz (5/1), Sally Moore (5/1), Gay Walter (5/1), Jim Zieche (5/1), Caroline Berger (5/3), Amber Jorgensen (5/3)

(Individuals meet the Pastor at the font for a special blessing in recognition of their anniversary.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Pastor: Just as God's work of creation never ends, so the gifts received in baptism are

renewed every day. Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism.

Pastor: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life: for water to bathe in, water to

drink, for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder, for water that gives life

to our planet.

People: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.

Pastor: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place: for water from our tap,

for rain and snow, for lakes and ponds.

People: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.

Pastor: We give you thanks for your salvation through water: for delivering Noah and his

family through the floodwaters, for leading your people Israel through the sea into

freedom, for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought, for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land, for quenching the

Samaritan woman's thirst with living water.

People: We give you thanks for your salvation through water.

Pastor: We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized, and for all who gather here; for

godparents and baptismal sponsors, for children and grandchildren, for our brothers and sisters in Christ whom we have never seen but to whom we are

bound.

People: We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized.

Pastor: We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit: for our entry into

Jesus' death through these waters, for our new birth into a life of freedom and service, for our calling to be your people, sent out for the life of the world.

People: We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

APOSTOLIC GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the

Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish

our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and

reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

We are seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Seminarian Christopher Girardeau

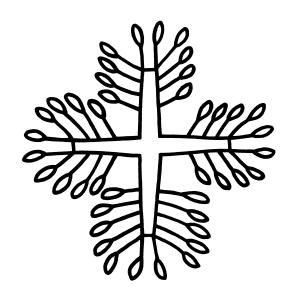
Children, youth, and young at heart are invited to gather on the steps for a special message. Toddlers may be accompanied by parents. All may bring forward coins or dollars for the bucket collection (currently Harvest Hope Food Bank). Following the message, young children and parent(s) are invited to the G.I.F.T. Zone for special activities that help young ones participate in worship through the middle portion of the service. As the children gather, we sing:

Allelu, allelu, allelu, alleluia!
Allelu, allelu, alleluia!

Praise ye the Lord! Praise ye the Lord!

Praise ye the Lord! Alleluia! Praise ye the Lord! Alleluia! Praise ye the Lord! Alleluia!

Praise ve the Lord!



FIRST READING

Lector: A reading from Acts.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea. (Acts 8:26-40)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.



PSALM 22:25-31

Lector: From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

People: The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the LORD give praise!

May your hearts live forever!

Lector: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

People: For dominion belongs to the LORD,

who rules over the nations.

Lector: Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead,

shall kneel before the LORD.

People: Their descendants shall serve the LORD,

whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

Lector: They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,

People: saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

SECOND READING

Lector: A reading from 1 John.

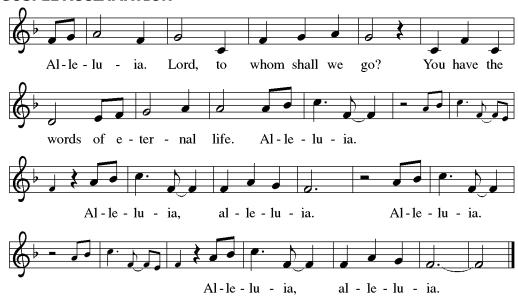
Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

(1 John 4:7-21)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Pastor:

[Jesus said:] ¹NI am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples." *(John 15:1-8)*

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Thine the Amen"

ELW #826

NICENE CREED

We stand as able.

People: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assist: Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the

witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

+ A brief silence +

Assist: For ministries that nurture faith formation. For missionaries and Bible study

leaders. For those who are seeking, questioning, or curious. For seminarians,

campus ministers, and the newly baptized, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: For the beauty and health of the earth. For vineyards and orchards, groves and

plains. For rain forests and arctic tundra. For volcanoes and mountains, hills and

valleys. For oceans deep and rivers wide, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: For spears to be beat into pruning hooks. For harsh words to be reformed into

loving speech. For bombs and sniper attacks to cease. For justice and peace in

every land, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: For homeless youth and rejected children. For isolated grandparents and lonely

nursing home residents. For the shamed, the slighted, and the disregarded members of our communities. For all the sick and grieving. We especially pray for:

the Turnmire/Curtis family; Tammy Mancuso; JoAnn Pulse; Stephanie Joyner; Johnie Thomas; Mara Miller; Sarah Daniels; Pat Basquill; and those we name

before you now, either silently or aloud.... let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: For all who live with post-traumatic stress disorder and postpartum depression. For

all who struggle with eating disorders and anorexia. For all who suffer in silence

and all who suffer alone, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: In thanksgiving for Catherine of Siena, whom we commemorate today, and all the

mystics and theologians who live eternally with you. For those we mourn and those we would rather forget. For the kingdom on earth to be as it is in heaven,

let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the

Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.



PEACE IS SHARED

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

We greet one another, with the words that the risen Jesus spoke to his disciples: "Peace be with you."

We are seated

THANKSGIVING MOMENT

OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

"Down to the River to Pray"

arr. Mary McDonald

We stand as able

OFFERTORY RESPONSE "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"



OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assist: Let us pray.

People: Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives,

that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

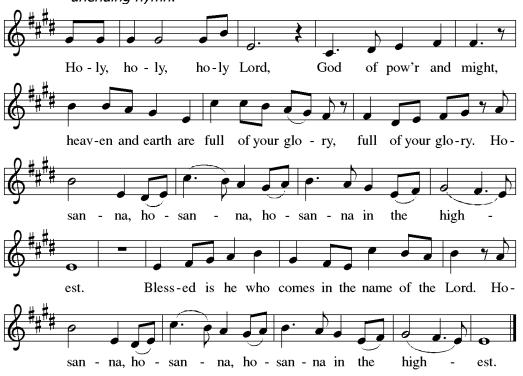
People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ...we praise Your name and join their

unending hymn:





EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor:

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations. 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. With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pastor: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these

gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

People: Come, Holy Spirit.

Pastor: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of

Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice,

peace, and love.

People: Come, Holy Spirit.

Pastor: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures,

with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now

and forever.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

People: 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

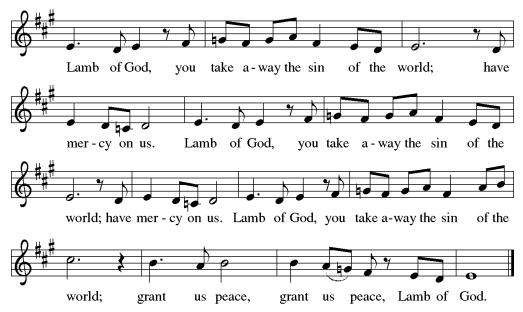
ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: Now let us feast this Easter day on Christ, the bread of heaven. Hallelujah!

People: Thanks be to God.

We are seated LAMB OF GOD



DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

This meal is the Lord's Supper of grace and is open to ALL Christians of any background or denomination. As Lutheran Christians, we believe in **Christ's true presence** in, with, and under the elements. We invite you to have your name tag visible so that the ministers may include **your name** as they offer you the elements. Communion at Living Springs is by **intinction** (bread is dipped into the wine or grape juice). In response to the words, "Body of Christ, given for you. Blood of Christ, shed for you," each worshipper may respond with, "**Amen."** If you require a **gluten free wafer**, please let your worship assistant know so they can accommodate you. Each chalice contains two compartments: wine is located in the larger compartment, while **alcohol-free grape juice** is located in the smaller compartment for those who require it. After receiving the elements, you are welcome to remain kneeling at the rail for meditation and prayer (others may simply fill in the open spaces). **Children** who have not received communion instruction are invited to come forward for a special blessing. Simply fold your hands to indicate you would like to receive the blessing.

DISTRIBUTION SONG

"Taste and See"

ELW #493

We stand after all have received communion

EUCHARISTIC BLESSING & PRAYER

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

People: Amen

Assist: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to

conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your

glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

People: Amen

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BENEDICTION

Pastor: May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty

God, Father,

→ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

People: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

[Tune: "House of the Rising Sun"]

(While we sing, we turn and face the processional cross as it is carried out the center aisle.)

- 1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
- 4 The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures; he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Assist: Do Justice! Love Kindness! Walk Humbly with God!

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

People: Thanks be to God.

+ COMMEMORATIONS FOR TODAY +

Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380

This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title "Doctor [teacher] of the Church." Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:

Growing Fruit

What is your strategy for living a fruitful life? Keep busy! Stay active! Make a to-do list! Watch another TED talk! Read another book! Get to the gym, to the store, to the school to pick up the kids! Take a multivitamin! Buy the latest gadgets and download the latest apps! All this will surely keep you on track so that you will bear fruit in your life.

Do these strategies line up with God's desire for us? Today Jesus sums up God's strategy for our fruit-bearing in one word: abide. Jesus uses this word eight times (perhaps once for each day of the week plus one for good measure?). Maybe he knows how difficult it is for some of his followers to be instead of do.

Jesus says the way of fruitfulness is for branches (us) to abide in the vine (him). This way seems to contradict our preferred strategies for growth. Rather than depending on constant movement, this fruitfulness is the result of being planted in God. Rather than living our lives behind isolating screens and walls, abundant growth is born out of connectedness with God and others. Fruit comes from dwelling, not doing. This fruit is the result of reliance and interdependence on the vine, not exhausting efforts at control over our own fruitfulness.

The fruit we produce is not the result of our doing but of God's doing in us. This is why we worship; to abide in God, to be replanted by the water of life, and to be repotted at a table that nourishes. Abiding in the vine with Christ's vitality flowing through us, our fruit grows.



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THANK YOU FOR SERVING TODAY!

ASSISTING MINISTER

Mike Davidson

LECTOR

Bob Turnmire

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Kellee Flores Trish Davidson

USHERS

Cindy Day Jeff Day Karlene Stuart Steve Bloss

INSIDE GREETER

Alice Renaud

OUTSIDE GREETER

Marshall Hurlbert

ACOLYTE

Walker Flores

CRUCIFER

Alison Levitt

TORCHBEARERS

Austin Padgett Laura Stuart

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Christopher Girardeau

NAME TAGS

Ashley Ramsey

FLOWERS

Bob Gill

MUGGER

Karen Kranz

REFRESHMENTS

Ashley Ramsey

ALTAR GUILD

Kathy Brennan Sue Loveless

COUNTERS

Steve Bloss Jeff Tenhover Vickie Crapps

COUNCIL DISCIPLE

Austin Padgett



Easter Seasonal Emphasis

Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised, he is not here! Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell Mark 16:6-7a

LIVING SPRINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Ministers: People of Living Springs

Ministry Staff.

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Prayer Ministryprayer@livingspringscolumbia.org

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP THIS DAY!

We greet all who worship in the name of the Risen Savior!
May the Spirit speak to your heart the message of God's redeeming love for everyone,
through the grace shown to the world in Jesus.

We gather as a community of disciples. Our center is Jesus Christ, and we are here to know and share the blessing of his forgiving, healing hand. If you have any questions about our congregation, please call 736-0661, drop by our office (M - F 8:30-4:30) or visit our website at www.livingspringscolumbia.org.

WELCOME GUESTS! – We are especially blessed by your presence today and look forward to worshipping with you again. Please take time to fill out the blue slip in your bulletin and/or sign the welcome book in the narthex. New members are always welcome into our congregation. To learn more about becoming part of Christ's family of faith here at Living Springs, please contact the office (736-0661) or Pastor Eric (917-2749).

BULLETIN BLUE SLIPS - may be completed and placed in the offering plate for prayer requests, guest information, address/phone updates, and a record of communing. Members, please complete at least one blue slip during 2018 to ensure we have a record of your communing.

SEASONAL NAME TAG – In order to show hospitality, we ask everyone to stop by the table under the portico and complete a name tag with our seasonal scripture verse. The tags allow everyone to use names as we share the Peace - and allow communion ministers to speak your name (*please make sure your name is visible when you come to the altar rail*).

RESTROOMS — are located in the Administration Building on both levels. Greeters/ushers will be happy to show you the way. Main level restrooms are equipped with diaper changing stations. For your child's safety, please accompany them when they leave the Sanctuary to use the restrooms.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS - are now available, please see an usher or greeter.

HEARING ASSISTANCE – The ushers have headsets which will amplify the sound for you. Please return to an usher or leave in the pew at the conclusion of the service.

GLUTEN-FREE WAFERS & ALCOHOL-FREE GRAPE JUICE— are available during communion, for those who desire either.

G.I.F.T. ZONE - is a special area in our worship space for parents and young children who wish to worship together with more child-friendly furniture and special resources to utilize during worship.

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS – are distributed during the children's sermon.

NURSERY — is available for infants-3 years old during the 10:45 Worship Service; located downstairs in the preschool in the Education Building. Greeters/Ushers will be happy to assist you.

CHILD SAFETY — is very important to us, so we ask at least 1 adult to accompany your child if he/she leaves the Sanctuary during worship. Please do not allow children to play on the playground without parental supervision. During the week, church doors are kept locked to maintain security for our Preschool. Please ring the intercom by the office doors to check in.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP TIME – is held each week following the 8:15 service and prior to the 10:45 service, inside the education building.

OUR PRAYER MINISTRY – As a community of disciples, we pray for one another and others - not just in times of illness, but also for praise, thanksgiving, and forgiveness. If you have a prayer request, simply fill out the bulletin blue sheet and place in the offering plate (or call/email the office). Please indicate if your request is for public or private prayer.