SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

January 5, 2020 - 10:45 AM



Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

Living Springs Lutheran Church

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

G.I.F.T. Zone Worship-Learning Area For Parents

We offer the parent-friendly G.I.F.T. Zone (in the left-hand transept of the main sanctuary) so that parents may share the worship experience with their children in a meaningful, stress-free way. Every child in the G.I.F.T. Zone should be accompanied by a family adult—as the purpose is to provide an area for parents to help teach their children the routines and meaning of worship (until they are old enough to worship in the pews for the entire service). 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. Parents and children use guided activities to help our youngest worshipers follow the readings, sermon, hymn, creed, and prayers. This is an awesome way for parents to share the rhythm of worship and have children/parents engaged together in worship with the whole congregation, while learning the liturgy. At the 10:45 service, our nursery is also available for ages 0 - 3 (for children who have not yet reached the point to focus and benefit from the G.I.F.T. Zone activities).

GATHERING: GOD-STORIES & BULLETIN SLIPS

As we gather, we reflect on God's work, with some visual examples on the display screens. We use the green slips in our bulletins to write down our God's Stories (and prayer concerns). Where have you seen or experienced God at work in yourself, in the lives of others, or the world this past week? Names are NOT required. Green slips may be placed in the offering plate.

GATHERING MUSIC

Baptismal Anniversaries: Dea Jones (1/5); Grayson Harmon (1/9) (During the Gathering Music, individuals meet the Pastor at the font for a special blessing.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, Love from the beginning, Word made Pastor:

flesh, Breath of heaven.

People: Amen.

Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another, trusting in God's Pastor:

endless mercy and love.

(Silence for reflection - we kneel as able)

Pastor: Merciful God,

People: we confess that we are not perfect. We have said and done things we

> regret. We have tried to earn your redeeming grace, while denying it to others. We have resisted your call to be your voice in the world. Forgive us, loving God. Give us your righteousness, the strength to put aside our

failures, and the courage to try again. Amen.

Pastor: Dear people of God, hear the good news: Christ the Savior is born! You are loved

and forgiven in the name of + Jesus, who has come among us. You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved, because God's love is given to you as the most precious gift of all. Rejoice in this love and share it with the world.

People: Amen.

We face the cross at the entrance of the sanctuary. We turn to follow the cross as it enters.

ENTRANCE SONG "Arise, Your Light Has Come"

ELW #314

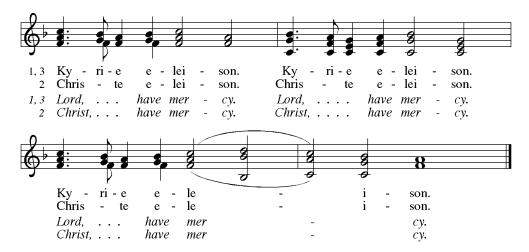
APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.

KYRIE AND PRAYER OF THE DAY



Pastor: Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word.

By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, 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

Alison Levitt

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 (Lutheran Disaster Response). 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:

He came down that we may have love...(repeat 3x) Hallelujah forevermore!

FIRST READING

Lector: A reading from Jeremiah.

Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord. (Jeremiah 31:7–14)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147:12-20

Lector: Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;

praise your God, O Zion,

People: who has strengthened the bars of your gates

and has blessed your children within you.

Lector: God has established peace on your borders

and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

People: God sends out a command to the earth,

a word that runs very swiftly.

Lector: God gives snow like wool,

scattering frost like ashes.

People: God scatters hail like bread crumbs.

Who can stand against God's cold?

Lector: The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;

the wind blows, and the waters flow.

People: God declares the word to Jacob,

statutes and judgments to Israel.

Lector: The LORD has not done so to any other nation;

People: they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

4

SECOND READING

Lector: A reading from Ephesians.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:3–14)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

We stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John. **People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. [John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. [John 1:1–18]

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

We are seated

SERMON Rev. Eric Fink

HYMN OF THE DAY "Of the Father's Love Begotten" vv. 1, 2, 3, 5 ELW #295

NICENE CREED

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: Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world,

and all who are in need.

+ A brief silence +

Assist: Holy God, you make your presence known to the church in every land. Give to us a

desire and will to support the diverse work of the church throughout the world.

Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: Generous Creator, in you all things came into being and without you not one thing exists. We praise you for the snow and rain that water the earth. Move us to care

for the well-being of the work of your hands. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: Savior of the nations, you gather in your care people of every age and ability, from lands near and far. Inspire the leaders of the nations to work for peace within their

countries and in all the world. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: Saving God, provide for your people who begin this new year in need. Grant shelter to those who are homeless, comfort to all who are lonely, and a strong

sense of your presence to those who are sick or grieving. We pray especially for: Charles Kauffman; Hank Cox; Leena Skiba; Deborah Depaoli; Claudette Tuttle;

Robin Traufler; JoAnn Pulse; Samuel Shelton; Henry Forsgren; Shirley Danner; Patrick Weinbauer; Skip Kasdorf; Claire Fleming; Tony Yount; the Wilson family; those on our prayer cards; and those we name before you now, either silently or

aloud.... Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: Word of truth, your good news of salvation is proclaimed among us. Bless all who

proclaim your word in this community, especially teachers, pastors, deacons,

musicians, and lectors. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: Gracious One, your light shines in the darkness and it is not overcome. We thank

you for the witnesses who have testified to your light. May their lives continue to

inspire us. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your

steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.",

OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN

For those who wish to give electronically, you may use the secure Givelify app. If you give electronically or by bank draft, there are anonymous "offering cards" in the pew rack, which you may prayerfully place in the plate as a reminder that every offering by any means is an act of worship.





MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

We stand as able

OFFERTORY HYMN



OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assist: Let us pray.

People: Generous God, you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of

the earth that become the meal of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go,

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING AND EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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:



Pastor:

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Pastor: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Pastor: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace

and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with

hope for his coming.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word

take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace

on earth.

People: Come, Holy Spirit.

Pastor: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of

the Most High, one God, 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: Love has come: God's love for all people. Come and eat, for Christ invites you.

People: Thanks be to God.

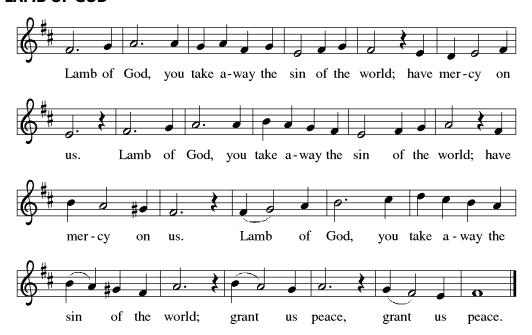
We are seated

ANNUAL DISCIPLESHIP COMMITMENTS

As you come forward for Communion, each person/family is invited to place their sealed 2020 Annual Discipleship Commitments in the manger - a sign of our response to the amazing gift of grace God gave us through Jesus the Christ-child, laid in the manger of Bethlehem. You may offer a silent prayer as you lay your envelope in the manger, "O God, thank you for the gift of Jesus in my life. Through these commitments, help me grow deeper in grace, love, and Christ. Amen." If you desire, you may also pick up the glass ovals and drop them in the corresponding water containers (gold = Christ, blue = Grace, red = Love).



LAMB OF GOD



DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

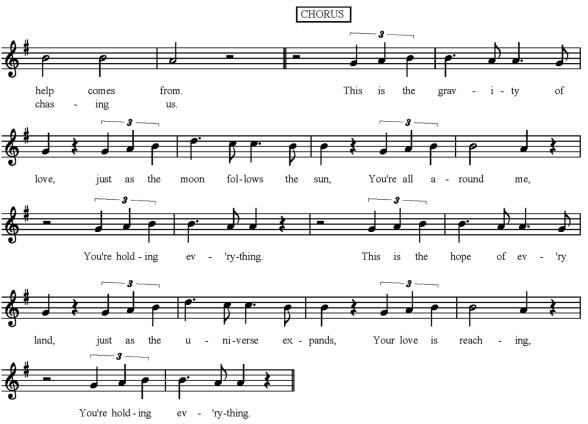
This meal is the Lord's Supper of grace and is open to ALL Christians of any background or denomination. As Lutheran Christians, we believe in **Christ's true presence** in, with, and under the elements. We invite you to have your name tag visible so that the ministers may include **your name** as they 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

"Gravity of Love"

- 1. I lift my eyes up to the hills
 This my morning song
 Where my strength comes from
 I lift my eyes up to the hills
 This my evening song
 Where my help comes from (to Chorus)
- 2. We lift our eyes up to the hills
 When will our help come
 Lord we cry how long
 We lift our eyes up to the hills
 Even as we run
 Hope is chasing us (to Chorus)



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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: Emmanuel, God with us, you grace us with life and breath and give us bread for

the journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing

news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all.

People: Amen

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Grace from God's own heart, peace from the + Child in the manger, and strength

from the Spirit of life be blessings for you today and forever.

People: Amen.

SENDING SONG "Jesus, What a Wonderful Child" ELW #297

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

DISMISSAL

Assist: Christ is born! Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

As we go out to serve the Lord, we encourage you to share the FaceTime Live Stream Casts from today's worship experience on your social media platforms using #GodsGraceForAll. You can find the live stream on our Living Springs FaceBook page: @livingspringscolumbia



SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS:

The Gift That Keeps Giving

Have you ever received a gift that just keeps on giving? Sloganeers love to invoke this phrase in advertisements to entice gift givers with the promise of a gift so good that it will unleash its original sense of excitement long-term. In most cases we can spot the sales pitch, but in other cases we may have received gifts we cherish so much that they truly do feel like they "keep on giving." It might be a cozy sweater you've worn until it's pilled and tattered, or a painting you look at every day, given to you by a friend. Maybe it's a tool or appliance that has never ceased to amaze you with its versatility, or a book you've read multiple times and can't stop talking about.

Today's gospel describes the gift of Jesus—his life, his work, his words, and his actions for us and for our salvation. "From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace," the gospel writer gushes (John 1:16). These words flow from the witness of those who followed Jesus and experienced his presence as a gift that never stopped giving. As the disciples watched him transform the lives of person after person and community after community, they experienced ever new wonders at his side. The Gospel of John aims to pass the fullness of all these gifts to other communities, places, and times so that the grace made known in Christ may never stop giving.

As you gather in Christian community today, you are invited to participate in the collective witness of the church—in words shared, hymns sung, prayers lifted up, bread broken, wine poured, and the declaration of the mystery of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Today the presence of Jesus Christ continues to give, pouring out grace upon grace on all those gathered, so that this assembly might also become Christ's witnesses in the world.



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THANK YOU FOR SERVING TODAY!

ASSISTING MINISTER

Mike Davidson

LECTOR

Adriana McMurphy

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Trish Davidson Wendy McKenzie

USHERS

Karlene Stuart Laura Stuart Preston Ginn Gary Ginn

INSIDE GREETER

Dea Jones

OUTSIDE GREETER

Adam Woodruff

ACOLYTE

Lucas Shannon

CRUCIFER

Steve Bloss

TORCHBEARERS

Tiffany Ginn Jeanette Bloss

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Alison Levitt

COUNTERS

Steve Bloss (L) Jeff Tenhover Michelle Outlaw

NAME TAGS

Karen Kranz

SOUND TECH

Bob Turnmire MUGGER

Charles Tracv

COFFEE

Chares Tracv

REFRESHMENTS

Judy Lawrence

COUNCIL PERSON

Jeff Tenhover

ALTAR GUILD

Gail Buchanan



Seasonal Emphasis

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1.5

LIVING SPRINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Ministers: People of Living Springs. Our Ministry Staff contacts are:
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Deacon Justin Rimbo, Min. of Worship & Innovative Church Outreach justin@livingspringscolumbia.org
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Sherry Forsgren, Bookkeepersherry@livingspringscolumbia.org
Mark & Laura Cunningham, Food Ministrylaurafood@livingspringscolumbia.org
Prayer Ministry prayer@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 green 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 GREEN SLIPS - may be completed and placed in the offering plate for prayer requests, God Stories, guest information, address/phone updates, and a record of communing. Please complete at least one slip during 2020 to ensure we have a record of 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 green slip and place in the offering plate (or call/email the office). Please indicate if your request is for public or private prayer.