FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 2, 2020 - 10:45 AM Presentation of Our Lord



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.

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 Trado Mayson

Baptismal Anniversaries: Laura Stuart (2/6); Jacob Newton (2/7) (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, the eternal voice from heaven, the Pastor:

anointed and beloved one, the Spirit moving over the waters. **People:**

As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in confession, trusting the love of Pastor:

Christ crucified and risen.

(Silence for reflection - we kneel as able)

Pastor: God who searches us and knows us,

you have shown us what is good, but we have looked to other lights to People:

> find our way. We have not been just in our dealings with others. We have chosen revenge over mercy. We have promoted ourselves instead of walking humbly with you. With what shall we come before you? Forgive us our sin, and show us your salvation in the face of Jesus Christ

our Savior. Amen.

Pastor: Beloved of God, you have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is

from God, poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ, Receive the promise of baptism: You are God's child; + your sins are forgiven. Rejoice and be

glad, for yours is the reign of heaven. People: Amen. **ENTRANCE SONG** "We Are Called" ELW #720

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.

SONG OF PRAISE AND PRAYER OF THE DAY



Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Ashley Ramsey

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 (Woodyard Assistance Fund/LS Assistance Fund). 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:

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. So we gather in His name, offering our love and praise. Jesus loves the little children of the world.

(Tune by C.H. Wools

(Tune by C.H. Woolston, Public Domain. Alt. Text by G. Donovan, Jr.)

FIRST READING

Lector: A reading from Micah.

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! 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. 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." "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? 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?" 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? (Micah 6:1–8)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 15

Lector: LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

People: Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,

who speak the truth from their heart;

Lector: they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;

they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

People: 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.

Lector: They do not give their money in hope of gain,

nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

People: Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING

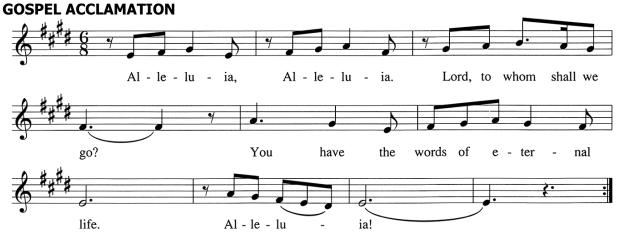
Lector: A reading from 1 Corinthians.

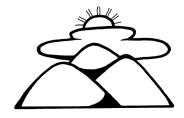
The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. 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. 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; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." (I Corinthians 1:18–31)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

We stand for the reading of the Gospel





GOSPEL LESSON

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

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

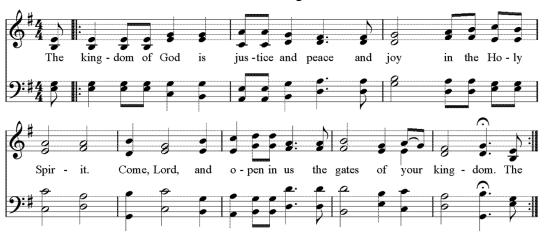
Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord. **People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

We are seated

SERMON Rev. Eric Fink

HYMN OF THE DAY

"The Kingdom of God"



"The Kingdom of God," by Taizé; Copyright © 2007, Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc.; All rights reserved. Used by permission.

APOSTLES' CREED

People: 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assist: Trusting that God hears us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in

need.

+ A brief silence +

Assist: God of liberation, you set your people free to serve others. Embolden your church,

that we seek justice for the oppressed, share generously your lovingkindness, and live humbly together. Unite us as one people under the foolishness of the cross.

Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: God of the universe, your care is evident everywhere—from the foundations of the

earth to the summit of the tallest mountains. Reconcile all of creation to itself and repair the environmental destruction caused by human carelessness and greed.

Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: God of the nations, you desire peace and justice among all people. Deliver us from

systems of fear that seek to divide us. Guide our local and national leaders. May their decisions empower and serve the needs of the poor and the disenfranchised.

Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: God of the oppressed, you raise up the lowly and comfort those in despair. We lift

up to you all who are victims of exploitation, discrimination, and greed. We pray for those who are suffering or in need in any way, especially: *Charles Kauffman; Nancy Franck; Anne Ducate; Evelyn Long; Sherry Forsgren; Margaret Blank; JoAnn Pulse; John Wright; Wanda Bunn; Leigh Snelgrove; Patrick Weinbauer; Skip Kasdorf; Mary Daniel; Claire Teuber; Jeanie Griswold; Laurie Elliot; Ben/Carson Coomes; Cherish Rushing; Dot Collins; those on our prayer cards; and those we*

name before vou now, either silently or aloud.... Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: God of love, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to earth in the form of a baby, whose

presentation in the temple we celebrate today. Fill our own house of worship with your presence, that all who enter may encounter Christ. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: God of life, we give you thanks for all those who have died in the faith. Thank you

for the examples of our ancestors and the saints who have gone before us. Hear

us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: Confident that you are able to accomplish more than we even dare to ask, we

bring these prayers before you, believing in your saving grace revealed in 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

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.



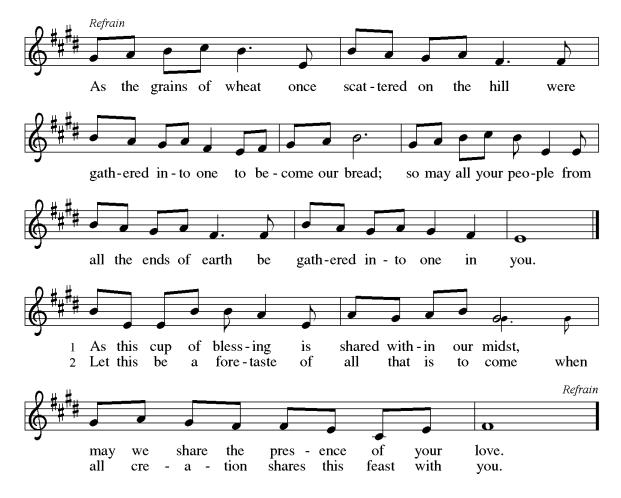


MUSIC FOR REFLECTION "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

Disciples of Harmony

We stand as able

OFFERTORY HYMN



OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assist: Let us pray.

People: God of wonder, you formed us in our mother's womb, and from mother

earth you bring forth this bread and wine. We place them on your table, together with our lives and all that you have made. Open the heavens to us and pour out your Spirit. We wait for your mercy; we long for your peace; we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ, our banquet of life. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING AND EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor: The Lord be with you. People: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. Pastor:

We lift them to the Lord. People:

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:



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est!

Pastor:

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 your Spirit of 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.

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: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table

of mercy and joy.

People: Thanks be to God.



LAMB OF GOD



OFFERING OF SYMBOLIC "DEEPER" STONES

Each person is invited to prayerfully consider in which area(s) you seek to especially grow DEEPER in the months ahead. As you come forward for Communion, you are invited to pick up a glass oval and drop it in the corresponding water container at the base of the baptismal font (gold = Christ, blue = Grace, red = Love). Remembering the gift of your baptism, you may dip your thumb in the water and as the oval drops deep into the water, re-trace the cross on your forehead, offering a prayer, "God, help me grow deeper in ______ this week."

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 will be offered a special blessing, as well as anyone else not desiring to receive the elements. Simply fold your hands to indicate you would like to receive the blessing.

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: Faithful God, you have kept your promise to us in this meal, nourishing us with the

gift of salvation. Now send your servants forth in peace, that we may testify to your goodness and share the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ, our Savior and

Lord.

People: Amen

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May Christ, the wisdom and power of God, and the source of our life together,

keep you united in mind and purpose. And the blessing of almighty God, the

Father, the

→ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you always.

People: Amen.

SENDING SONG "All the People Said Amen"

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

You are not alone if you are lonely If you're rich or poor well it don't matter
When you feel afraid you're not the only Weak or strong you know love is what we're after

We are all the same in need of mercy We're all broken but we're all in this together

To be forgiven and be free God knows we stumble and fall It's all you got to lean on And He so loved the world

But thank God it's all you need (Chorus) He sent His son to save us all (Chorus/Bridge)





CCLI Song # 6518275; Words & Music by Matt Maher, Trevor Morgan & Paul Moad; © 2013 Universal Music - Brentwood Publishing; Used By Permission. CCLI License #1142641

the

king-dom of

God. _

DISMISSAL

Assist: Go in peace. Let your light shine. Grow Deeper in Christ, Grace, and Love.

theirs is the king - dom,

for

People: Thanks be to God.

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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

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY:

Blessed Are You

You are blessed, here and now, no matter what joy or struggle is yours today. Look and see: Jesus surveys the crowds and takes in their faces. They are various genders and ages, sick and well, poor and thirsting for a word of solace. He sees beyond outward appearance to the urgency of their hearts. They wait to hear a word of blessing and peace, longing for a breath to fan the fading flame of hope. But Jesus sees even more. Jesus sees the everlasting love of God at work in the people's lives. They are already blessed, greatly honored by the Holy One living within and among them.

God's Spirit speaks in the poverty of their hearts yearning for the fullness of the divine presence. In their sorrows and humility, they open their souls to receive the consolation of God's love.

Their hunger for mercy and peace is the Spirit crying out for God to heal the cycle of hurt and retribution that has scarred human history since Cain killed Abel.

Their thirst for righteousness is a prayer for the kingdom of heaven to fill every corner of creation with the lovingkindness of Jesus as he preaches, teaches, and heals.

The kingdom of blessedness is alive within them, aching, praying, crying out, drawing them to the feet of Jesus, who heals their hearts and reveals the compassionate kingdom of God in the midst of a troubled world.

Blessedness is the deepest truth of their lives, and ours. Each week, we come to hear the word of grace and share in the holy supper, that we may taste and see the healing power of the kingdom in every moment of life. We want to feel and know what we so often forget: We are blessed. The life of the one who is everlasting love lives within us, bringing God's kingdom, here and now.



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+ COMMEMORATIONS FOR TODAY +

Presentation of Our Lord

Forty days after the birth of Jesus we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged priest who offered the song "Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace," as well as by the prophet Anna, who spoke of the redemption of Israel.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING TODAY!

ASSISTING MINISTER

Isaac Taylor

LECTOR

Hunter Prest

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Kellee Flores Trish Davidson

USHERS

Gary Ginn Preston Ginn Karlene Stuart

Walker Flores

INSIDE GREETER

Linda Hayes

OUTSIDE GREETER

Steve Bloss

Ministers: People of Living Springs

ACOLYTE

Mike Davidson

CRUCIFER

Adam Woodruff

TORCHBEARERS

Tiffany Ginn Cynthia Edney

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Ashley Ramsey

COUNTERS

Adam Woodruff (L) Angie Dyches Sarah Schultz

NAME TAGS

Karen Kranz

SOUND TECH

Rocky Berger

MUGGER

Charles Tracy

FLOWERS

Sadonia Grimmer

COFFEE

Charles Tracy

REFRESHMENTS

Karen Kranz

COUNCIL PERSON

Adam Woodruff

ALTAR GUILD

Linda Hayes

GUEST KEYBOARDIST

Trado Mayson

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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Child Development Center: (803) 736-0776 www.facebook.com/livingspringscolumbia

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Our Ministry Staff contacts are

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ı	Rev. Eric Fink, Senior Pastorpastoreric@livingspringscolumbia.org
ı	Deacon Justin Rimbo, Min. of Worship & Innovative Church Outreach justin@livingspringscolumbia.org
ı	Tammy Mancuso, Director, Living Springs Child Development Center tmancuso@lslccdc.org
ı	Lisa Petty, Communications Coordinator/Administrative Assistantlisaoffice@livingspringscolumbia.org
ı	Seminarian Isaac Taylor, Sr. Youth Associateisaac@livingspringscolumbia.org
ı	Peri Baker, Children/Youth Associateperi@livingspringscolumbia.org
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ı	Virginia Herlong, Choral Directorvirginia@livingspringscolumbia.org
ı	Laura Turnmire, Handbell Director laurabells@livingspringscolumbia.org
ı	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.