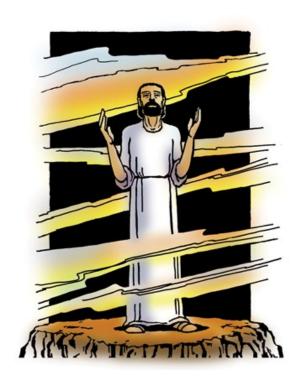
# TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

February 23, 2020 - 10:45 AM



Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

# **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: Rocky Berger (2/24)

(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 anoint-Pastor:

ed and beloved one, the Spirit moving over the waters. People: Amen.

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.

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

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.

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

> 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. 2

# **ENTRANCE SONG** "Shine, Jesus, Shine" ELW #671

#### **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:

O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

We are seated

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Eric Fink

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. Woolston, Public Domain. Alt. Text by G. Donovan, Jr.)

#### **FIRST READING**

Lector: A reading from Exodus.

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights. (Exodus 24:12–18)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 2** 

Lector: Why are the nations in an uproar?

Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

People: Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt,

and the princes plot together,

against the LORD and against the LORD's anointed?

Lector: "Let us break their yoke," they say;

"let us cast off their bonds from us."

People: God whose throne is in heaven is laughing;

the LORD holds them in derision.

Lector: Then in wrath God speaks to them,

and in rage fills them with terror.

People: "As for me, I have anointed my king

upon Zion, my holy mountain."

Lector: Let me announce the decree of the LORD,

who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I begotten you.

People: Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance

and the ends of the earth for your possession.

Lector: You shall crush them with an iron rod

and shatter them like a piece of pottery."

People: And now, you kings, be wise;

be warned, you rulers of the earth.

Lector: Submit to the LORD with fear,

and with trembling bow in worship;

People: lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath.

Happy are all who take refuge in God!

# **SECOND READING**

Lector: A reading from 2 Peter.

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. (2 Peter 1:16–21)

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.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by them—selves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became daz—zling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead." (Matthew 17:1–9)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

We are seated

**SERMON** Rev. Eric Fink

**HYMN OF THE DAY** "Beautiful Savior" ELW #838

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

need.

+ A brief silence +

Assist: Holy God, your loving power is at work among us. Rouse and embolden your

church, that we too might be transfigured, set alight in the world for the sake of

the gospel. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: Awesome God, you speak and the earth trembles. You display your majesty in the

mountains and your mystery in the clouds. Grant that we discover your magnifi-

cence in all of your created world. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: Ruler of nations, your reign extends across all human borders. Guide world leaders

in justice and righteousness, that they may work for equity for all people and pro-

tect the world that you have made. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: Gracious God, you are a refuge for all who are neglected and abused. Bring free-

dom to those who are oppressed and give comfort to those experiencing pain of any kind. We pray especially for: *Sherry Forsgren; Charles Kauffman; JoAnn Pulse;* 

the Grimmer/Hall family; the Hair/Wright family; Miriam Metze; Cindy Ruff; Emily Tripi; Patrick Weinbauer; Skip Kasdorf; the McMann family; the Hardin familyVada/

Garbo Lee; Rochelle Middleton Hall; 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: God of Moses and Elijah, you made your dwelling place at the top of a mountain

with Jesus and his disciples. Dwell also in this congregation, that all who enter this community might be transformed by your dazzling brilliance. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: Everlasting God, you offer eternal life to all your children. Thank you for the wit-

ness of those who lived and died in the faith, *especially Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, whose martyrdom in the early church we remember this day.* 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."

#### **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.





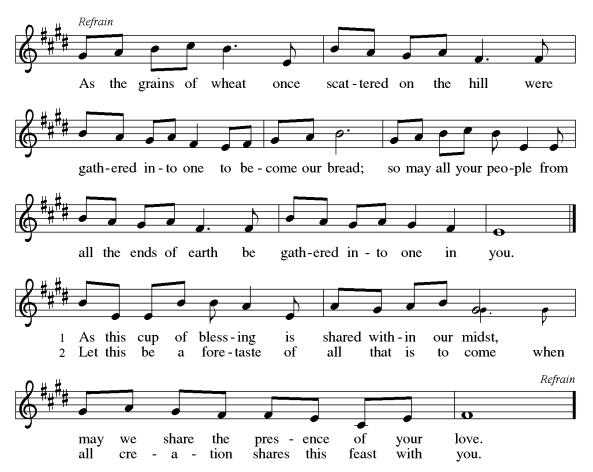
#### MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

"Go Up To The Mountain of God"

LS Adult Choir By Michael Helman

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.

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, 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 denomination or back-ground. 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 Fa-

ther, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you always.

People: Amen.

#### PREPARATION FOR THE LENTEN JOURNEY

The Lenten Oak cross is brought into the chancel and the back walls of the sanctuary are shut. During the final 2 verses of the Sending Hymn, we follow the Processional Cross out the CENTER AISLE, dismissing row by row, from front to back - as we sing. At the back Sanctuary Doors, each household receives an Oak Tabletop Cross, for their Lenten Devotional Focus.



#### SENDING HYMN

"Arise, Your Light Has Come"

ELW #314

- 1 Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey; show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.
- 2 Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door; proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.
- 3 Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born, bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.
- 4 Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song! Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

**DISMISSAL** (in the Narthex)

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

**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

#### + COMMEMORATIONS FOR TODAY +

Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

## TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD:

Listen, Just Listen

"This is my Son, the Beloved; . . . listen to him!" A thunderous, divine voice directed the disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration to listen to Jesus. Peter, James, and John had seen the light of eternity shining in Jesus' face, only to fall to the ground in fear, little understanding what it meant.

And to this, Jesus says, "Get up and do not be afraid." That's all. There is no denunciation, no condemnation, no call to repent of their fears and failure to understand. There is only his healing touch and words of assurance: "Do not be afraid."

Only much later would the disciples start to grasp the significance of the holy moment they had shared on the mountain. Like us, they are just beginners when it comes to understanding the light of God shining in the face of Jesus. Sometimes the light of Christ warms and illumines our hearts to overflowing. The wonder of his loving presence fills and lifts us above our doubts and fears into the joy of simply knowing him. That feeling of overflowing is the mountaintop. We don't live there, and can't—just like the disciples couldn't remain on the mountain where Jesus shone like the sun. But we should listen and savor what we hear and know, lest we forget.

Listen as Jesus speaks of his suffering and death. You will hear the voice of an everlasting love, calling you "beloved." Listen to Jesus' voice after the resurrection. You will know he will be with you "always, to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20). Listen to the voice of gentle strength saying, "Do not be afraid." Listen to his voice, and then walk into your future knowing a great love holds you and always will, through all the highs and lows of living.

Just listen to what he is saying.



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# THANK YOU FOR SERVING TODAY!

# **ASSISTING MINISTER**

Adriana McMurphy

#### **LECTOR**

Mike Davidson

#### **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

Gail Buchanan Saundra Dixon

#### **USHERS**

Karlene Stuart Steve Bloss Mike Davidson Wes Levitt

#### **INSIDE GREETER**

Jeanette Bloss

#### **ACOLYTE**

Mike Davidson

# **CRUCIFER**

Steve Bloss

#### **TORCHBEARERS**

Trish Davidson Austin Padgett

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pr. Eric Fink

### **COUNTERS**

Laura Turnmire (L) Dea Jones

#### **NAME TAGS**

Karen Kranz

# **SOUND TECH**

**Bob Turnmire** 

#### **MUGGER**

Kathy McDonald

#### COFFEE

Bill Franck

#### **REFRESHMENTS**

Kellee Flores

## **COUNCIL PERSON**

Dea Jones

# **ALTAR GUILD**

Linda Hayes

## **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

4224 Hard Scrabble Rd., Columbia, SC 29223

Office: (803) 736-0661 E-Mail: contact@livinspringscolumbia.org

# www.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.

**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.