

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

February 14, 2021 - 10:00 AM

Living Springs Lutheran Church

4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223

www.livingspringscolumbia.org

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.



Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen... since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses... let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus... (Hebrews 11:1-3, 12:1-2)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

(Silence for reflection - we kneel as able)

Pastor: Holy God,

People: you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

Pastor: How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

People: Amen.

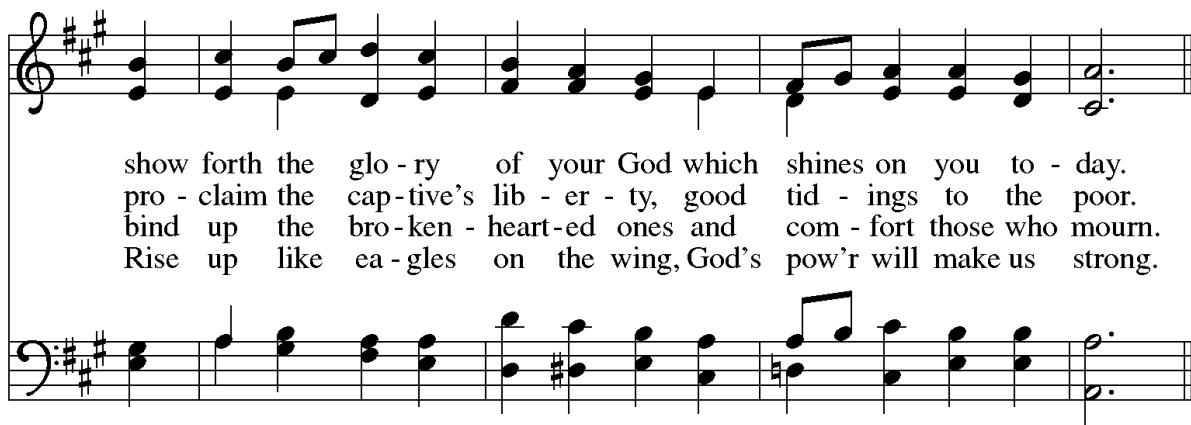
We focus on the cross as it enters the sanctuary.

GATHERING SONG

"Arise, Your Light Has Come!"



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

*Arise, Your Light Has Come!; Text: Ruth Duck; Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter
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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.**

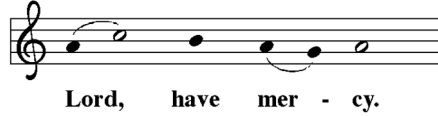


KYRIE & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



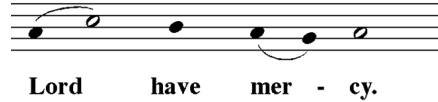
Pastor: For the peace from above
and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Pastor: For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Pastor: For this community of faith,
and all who offer their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.



Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us Gracious Lord.



Pastor: Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, 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 - BLESSING OF PEW BEARS

Children, youth, and young at heart are invited for a special message. You may collect your coins or dollars at home for the bucket collection and bring them to Sanctuary worship, to the Parking Lot Worship, or drop them off at the church office. Current collection is for the Disaster Response Fund.

*For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)
For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)
Solid in our hope...
(God's movin' us) For-ward in faith!*

*Forward in faith (clap, clap, clap)
Forward in faith (clap, clap, clap)
Keepin' our eyes on Jesus,
We're runnin' the race!*

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

"Go Up to the Mountain of God"

*Go up, go up to the mountain of God where Christ transfigured shines as the morning star.
Gaze in awe and wonder upon the beauty of Jesus the Lord: alleluia, alleluia.
Go up, to up to the mountain of God and speak with prophets – Moses, Elijah.
Join with all the angels and saints in praising the incarnate Word: alleluia, alleluia.
Go up, go up to the mountain of God and hear the loving Father proclaiming:
This is my beloved Son. Hear his word and follow his way. Alleluia, alleluia.
Go up, go up to the mountain of God. And there renew your faith in the Son of God.
May your life of faith reflect the light of Christ to the world. Alleluia, alleluia.*

*Go Up to the Mountain of God; Text: Michael Helman;
Text © 1999, Augsburg Fortress.*

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FIRST READING

Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.

Lector: A reading from 2 Kings.

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. (2 Kings 2:1-12)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 50:1-6

Lector: The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken;
calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**People: Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,
God shines forth in glory.**

Lector: Our God will come and will not keep silence;
with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.

**People: God calls the heavens and the earth from above
to witness the judgment of the people.**

Lector: "Gather before me my loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice."

**People: The heavens declare the rightness of God's cause,
for it is God who is judge.**



SECOND READING

The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.

Lector: A reading from 2 Corinthians.

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:3-6)

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 Mark.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. (Mark 9:2-9)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

We are seated

MESSAGE

Rev. Eric Fink



HYMN OF THE DAY

"How Good, Lord, To Be Here!"



1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;
2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold
5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;



your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.
where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.
but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

How Good, Lord, To Be Here!; Text: Joseph A. Robinson; Music: POTSDAM, W. Mercer

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: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

+ A brief silence +

Assist: For the gospel proclaimed in word and deed, for communities of faith far and near, and for all who show the face of Christ throughout the world, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: For creation: sun, moon and stars; life forming in the dark earth and ocean deep; mountains, clouds and storms, and creatures seen and unseen, and for the Holy Spirit's guidance in our stewardship of God's creation, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: For those responsible for safety and protection: for emergency responders and security guards, attorneys and advocates, civil servants and leaders of governments, that they witness to mercy and justice throughout the world, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: For all who suffer this day, that Christ our healer transform sickness into health, loneliness into companionship, bereavement into consolation, and suffering into peace. We pray especially for: *Inge Lowery; the Mooney family; the Bradham family; Lois Mattson; Katrina Shannon; Walker Flores; Jim Grimmer; Jeff Tenhover; Ann Lynn Caughman; Ed Brennan; Dolores Harmon; Helen Bradham; Rhea Pye; Wendy McKenzie; Karl Schmidt; Margaret Blank; Charles Kauffman; Bunie Talbert; baby Cayden; Kathy Nelson; Bob Holmstrom; Kelly Koziol; Lila Bell; Wilma Bracey; the Goldfinch family; the Carter family; the Anderson family; the Ketterman family; the Payne family; Nancy Todd; Linda Murphey; Jimmy Donahue; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud...*, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: For companions on life's journey in this worshiping community, for loved ones who cannot be with us this day, and for guidance during struggles we face, that God's glory is revealed around and among us, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their earthly pilgrimage, *especially missionaries Cyril and Methodius, whom we commemorate today*, that their lives of service and prayer inspire us in our living, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Pastor: In these days of ongoing pandemic, we continue to pray for ..., let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

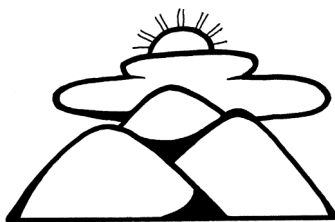
People: Amen.

SHARING OF PEACE

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

Offering may be dropped off at the office during the week or sent through the mail. For those who wish to give electronically, you may use the secure Givelify app.

Google Play



App Store



OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR HOLY COMMUNION

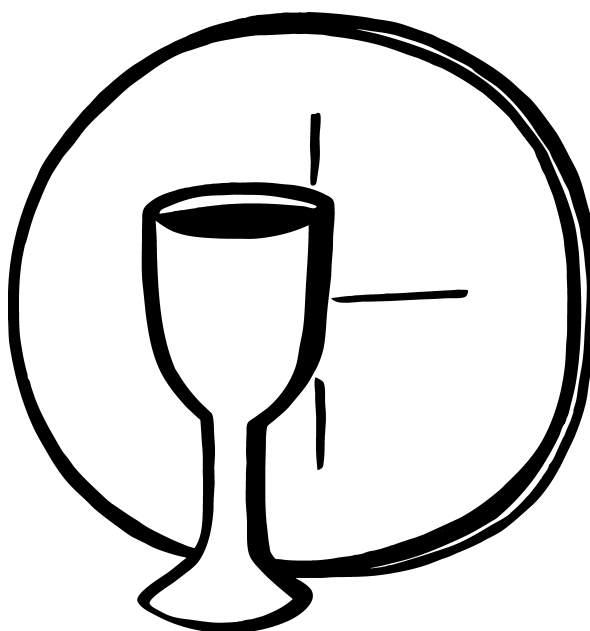
Pastor: We have been made one as the body of Christ through the waters of baptism. In our journey of faith & life, we are fed with Christ's own body and blood. Even though we do not celebrate Holy Communion in this virtual gathering, we pause to give thanks for the gift of Holy Communion — as we anticipate, with joy, those times when we are fed at your table.

Pastor: O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we offer our praise and give you thanks. When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child. When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation; David fought Goliath; the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life. You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he conquered death and granted the people your life.

We give you thanks and praise for the gift of Holy Communion and for the blessing it brings to your people. Even though we abstain from your meal in this moment of worship, for reasons you understand, we still sense the power of your forgiveness and grace offered to us and the world through your Son. Awaiting those times when we share in this meal, we still cherish in our hearts the words which Jesus gave us:

People: 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."

We take time for prayer and reflection as we sing together, giving thanks to God for all the times we have been fed with our Lord's body & blood—and look forward to the time when we gather with others around the Lord's Table.



COMMUNION REFLECTION

"Come As You Are"

1. Come out of sad - ness from wher - ev - er you've been. Come, bro - ken - heart - ed, let
 res - cue be - gin. _ Come find your mer - cy. O sin - ner, come kneel;
 Earth has no sor - row that Heav - en can't _ heal, earth has no sor - row that Heav - en can't _

CHORUS

heal. Lay down your bur - dens, _ lay down your shame.
 All who are bro - ken _ lift up your face. _ O wan - der - er,
 come home; _ You're not too _ far. So lay down your
 hurt, lay down your _ heart, come as you are. _

2. There's hope for the hope - less and all those who've strayed: Come
 sit at the ta - ble, come taste the grace. _ There's rest for the wea - ry,
 rest that en - dures. Earth has no sor - row that Heav - en can't _ cure.

To Chorus

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.

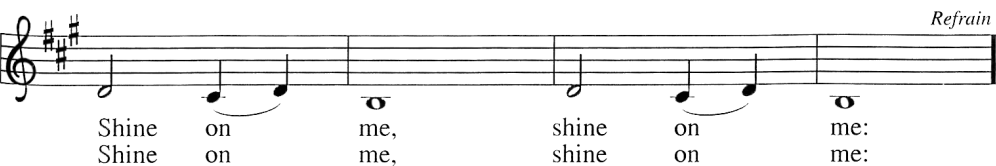
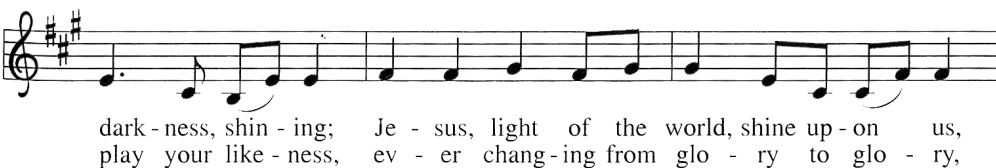
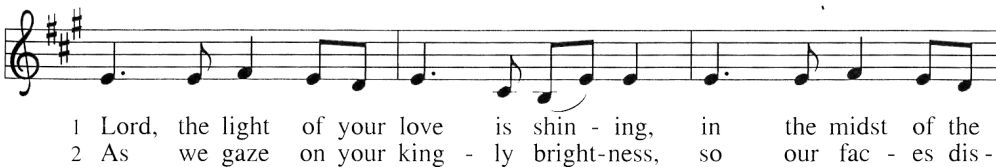
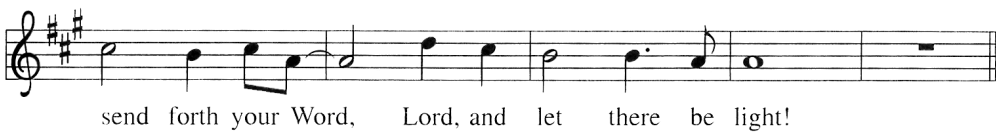
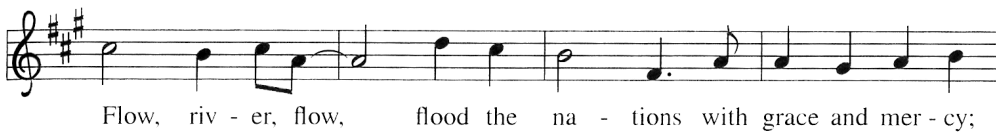
BENEDICTION

Pastor: God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep you in peace.

People: Amen

SENDING SONG

"Shine, Jesus, Shine"



DISMISSAL

Assist: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

✦ **COMMEMORATIONS FOR TODAY** ✦

Cyril, monk, died 869; Methodius, bishop, died 885; missionaries to the Slavs

These two brothers from Thessalonika, Greece, were monks and were sent to bring Christianity to the Slavic people. In the course of their work they created a written language, inventing the Cyrillic alphabet for it, and translated the Bible and the liturgy.

SHROVE TUESDAY

February 16 6:30 LiveStream

**Blessing of Your Home Pancakes
& Burning of Palms Prayer Liturgy**

**Pancake Kits Available from LS Youth
Sunday, Feb. 14, 11:45-1:00**

Sign-Up by Feb 12-Info Below

(pick-up at church, or youth can deliver - support Youth Ministry with your donations)

COVID has made this years' Shrove Tuesday pancake supper a little bit different. This year we are making pancake packets with all the ingredients so that you can make them at home and your family will be safe! *The kits can be picked up at church on Sunday, February 14th from 11:45 - 1pm (immediately after worship) or from the office through Tuesday, February 16. You can also request delivery to you doorstep on February 14th. If you would like a kit, (either pick-up or delivery), please sign up using the link below by Feb. 12—or call the office.*

<https://forms.gle/LmyV4HxSCApMQDY9>

All donations for our youth ministry are welcome!



ASH WEDNESDAY

February 17

We begin the Lenten journey of prayer that leads us to the cross.



Worship In-person

Noon & 7 pm

(Spaced w/ Face Coverings in Sanctuary)

Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

Worship Live-streamed @ 7 pm

YouTube & Facebook

(Pick up your ashes for home use —see below)

Pick up Ashes at end of Worship on Sunday, Feb. 14, to be able to use in your home during the streamed worship service. OR call the office by Feb. 12 —and our Sr. Youth can deliver the ashes to you, along with your Shrove Tuesday Pancake kit.

"Ashes-to-Go"

8AM—10AM & 4PM -6PM

tents located at LS Parking Lot and Lake Carolina Town Center

LENTEN FISH FRY

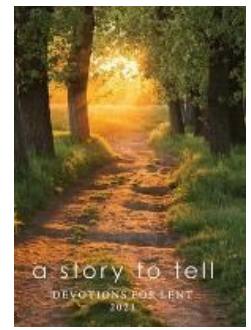
Feb. 19 Through Mar. 26

5 pm - 7 pm.

Because safety is our main priority and we are not able to socialize in the fellowship hall, the fish fry will be available through Fishin' Fellas, a food truck stationed in Blythewood that many of you are probably already familiar with. Of course, the fellowship, tired bodies, sore feet and entertainment will be greatly missed by all our many workers who made it possible for our success. *The price of \$10 for each adult meal at Fishin' Fellas is a choice of: Flounder & a side; 10 ct. Shrimp & a side; Shrimp Taco & a side; or Fish (Flounder) Taco and a side. Sides: Fried Okra, Hush puppies; or Fries (adult meals include a water). Kids add-on: 4 ct. Shrimp & a side (\$5). The truck will be parked on our property every Friday in Lent (order directly from your vehicle), starting Feb. 19 and ending the Friday before Easter week Mar. 26. Time will be 5 pm - 7 pm.*



LENT 2021... A Story to Tell: God Is Love!



MID-DAY LENTEN WORSHIP
Tuesdays @ 12:00, Feb. 23 - Mar. 23
LENTEN DRAMA WORSHIP
Wednesdays @ 6:00, Feb. 24 - Mar. 24

SPECIAL LENTEN DISCIPLE GROUPS
(meet virtually)
& ONGOING BIBLE STUDIES

2020 SOCK DRIVE CONTINUES THROUGH EPIPHANY SEASON!

As of today, we have collected 1936 socks and other items. We are 84 away from our goal. In the final days of this Epiphany season of light, let's reach our goal of collecting 2020 new socks (= 1010 pairs). The socks may be of any size for any age/gender, as they are badly needed by agencies serving adults who are homeless, veterans, youth at Palmetto Place, as well as children, newborns and toddlers. Other warm winter items (gloves, scarves, stocking hats) are welcome, too. There are baskets located in the office hallway.

YEAR-END GIVING SUMMARIES

Giving Summaries and Thank-You's are available at the check-in table (or from the office during the week). For questions or corrections, contact Bill Franck at bfranck@sc.rr.com.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your 2021 envelopes boxes are available at the check-in table (or from the office during the week). Please pick up your box and use your envelopes throughout the year. If you do not find a box assigned to you, please contact Bill Franck and he will get you a box. Children's offering envelopes are not assigned. However, if your children want envelopes, please take a box, record your child's name and the box number.



HOPE MINISTRY PROJECT – CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

In support of patient's families of children who are undergoing treat-

ment at the Children's Cancer & Blood Disorder unit on the 5th floor of Prisma Children's Hospital, Living Springs is providing 24 meals on the third Thursday of each month. The meals are being delivered by our own LS members at Carolina Deli. Many of these families face the challenge of financial difficulties because of extensive medical expenses, missing work, longing to stay at the hospital with their children. To personalize this project, it will be an added comfort to include cards, pictures, poems with thoughts of comfort, words of encouragement, a handmade crochet or knitted square with an embroidered heart, etc.!! You can drop your cards or other care items off at the church on a continuing basis by the third Thursday and we will see they get delivered each month.



"SOUP"-ER BOWL SUNDAY CHICKEN NOODLE WINS BY A LANDSLIDE!!

Thanks to all who brought/sent in soup for our Souper Bowl soup drive. We collected 430 cans of soup with a majority being good ol' chicken noodle! We also have collected \$632.20 in donations so far (not including Givelify). The youth will be delivering the soup to the local food pantries soon. Thanks again!



God's Love Shared Through You ...



One Life Deeper !

Our prayerful goal is that God will work in every LS disciple to have an impact of faith and hope in the life of one person during the year. **What shoes might they be wearing?** It may be someone you know already—at work, at home, at school, in the neighborhood, in your daily life. It may be a stranger whom God will bring to you this year. How will the Spirit work through you to bring someone deeper? **Deeper in Christ, Deeper in Grace, Deeper in Love!**

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS: inviting, involving, mentoring, discipling relationships 1 person at a time!

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS: for the work of God's kingdom in our community and world!

SHARING GOD'S LOVE: with those who are hurting, alone, marginalized, or feeling unloved!

SHARING GOD'S STORIES: so we do not remain silent about God's ongoing work in the world!

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD:

A Cosmos of Kaleidoscopic Fragments

It was several months since her death, months of looking to make sense of his pained world that had changed so completely. In desperation, he wandered into a room of unknown faces, a circle of uncertainty. Welcome. Names. Introductions. Then instructions from the grief counselor: "Next week, bring an item, something that will let us know your loved one."

He wondered how that could possibly be done. What one thing, what symbol would be able to define a whole life? What to bring? Her hiking boots or blue sport sandals, the spinning wheel, a gardenia bush or bouquet of zinnias? The gold wedding ring worn for thirty years? Her passport? Perhaps one of her paintings. Maybe her recipe for spaghetti sauce with olives—no, better, her grandmother's date cookies. The flannel-lined jeans or white linen dress? A picture of her children, her Bible, a book, her diary? He did not return to the circle. He could not imagine any token to be stand-in for a whole life.

There with Jesus on a high mountain apart from the comings and goings below, just hours away from when he would foretell his own suffering and death, three disciples grasped for a full-screen image of their rabbi, Jesus. In one dazzling flash of terrifying brightness they thought they had found it. But then the same voice that presided over Jesus' baptism interjected: "This is my Son . . ." (Mark 9:7). Suddenly, a cosmos of kaleidoscopic fragments rushed in: there was Jesus restoring sight to blind eyes, defying demonic strongholds, settling seas, passing bread and multiplying fish, rattling an empire, embracing a child, drinking the Samaritan's water, eating the sinners' meals, casting mercy about like seed, robing enemies in love, championing the lowly, promising life, accepting death. There is no way that this Jesus could be condensed into a single moment, image, or being.

As if to say, "Don't be blinded by the light," from the cloud there came a voice: "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

February Book of the Month: Psalms 1-50