

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, February 12, 2023

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
215 N. Warren St.
Orwigsburg, PA
570-366-2316
www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE "Hymn" D. E. Wagner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, who makes all things new, and whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sins.

Silence is kept for reflection.

O Holy One,

we confess that we are wrapped up in sin and cannot free ourselves.

Our feet have not followed in your path and

our hearts have turned away from you.

Forgive us that we may be reconciled to you and one another

and teach us to walk in the light of your grace. Amen.

Hear the voice of Jesus who says,

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim release to the captives."

Know that you are forgiven of your sins, and that you are freed to love God and serve your neighbor. May the Light of Christ guide you now and forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"
[See back of bulletin]

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE



♩ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



♩ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you are the strength of all who hope in 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. **Amen.**

WORD

A READING FROM DEUTERONOMY

[Moses said to the people:] ¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I

am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

(Deuteronomy 30:15-20)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 119:1-8 (Read responsively)

¹Happy are they whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord!

²**Happy are they who observe his decrees
and seek him with all their hearts!**

³Who never do any wrong,
but always walk in his ways.

⁴**You laid down your commandments,
that we should fully keep them.**

⁵Oh, that my ways were made so direct
that I might keep your statutes!

⁶**Then I should not be put to shame,
when I regard all your commandments.**

⁷I will thank you with an unfeigned heart,
when I have learned your righteous judgments.

⁸**I will keep your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me.**

A READING FROM FIRST CORINTHIANS

¹Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

(1 Corinthians 3:1-9)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ²¹“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

³¹“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.

³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.

³⁷Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

(Matthew 5:21-37)

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”

[See back of bulletin]

THE APOSTLES’ CREED (Read in unison)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Shepherding God, lead your church into an ever-closer relationship with you, that we might better know your commands, hold fast to your decrees, and live in your law. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

Creator God, heaven and earth bear witness to your goodness and mercy. Help us to live in harmony with one another and become good stewards of all that you have placed within our hands. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

God of peace, you stand with all who suffer. Bring an end to violence, war, discrimination, and all other forms of hatred, that everyone may be treated justly and be comforted through your presence. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

God of abundance, help us to use only what we need while sharing with those who have little. Give us confidence to believe that you will abundantly bless your people in good times as well as bad. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

Gracious God, you bring healing and create wholeness. Pour abundant life upon all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

God of truth, you enlighten the whole world and in you there is no darkness. Teach us to speak the truth in love. Keep our lips from deceptive words and our hearts from foolish and destructive thoughts. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

Eternal God, we give you thanks for our forebears in the faith who now rest in you. Help us to listen to their stories with awe and rejoice in your faithfulness. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

(The Pastor concludes): We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8 AM)

“Amazing Grace”

J. Linker

ANTHEM (10:30 AM)

“Take My Voice and Let Me Sing”*

S. Kupfershmid

OFFERTORY HYMN “Let the Vineyards be fruitful, Lord”



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

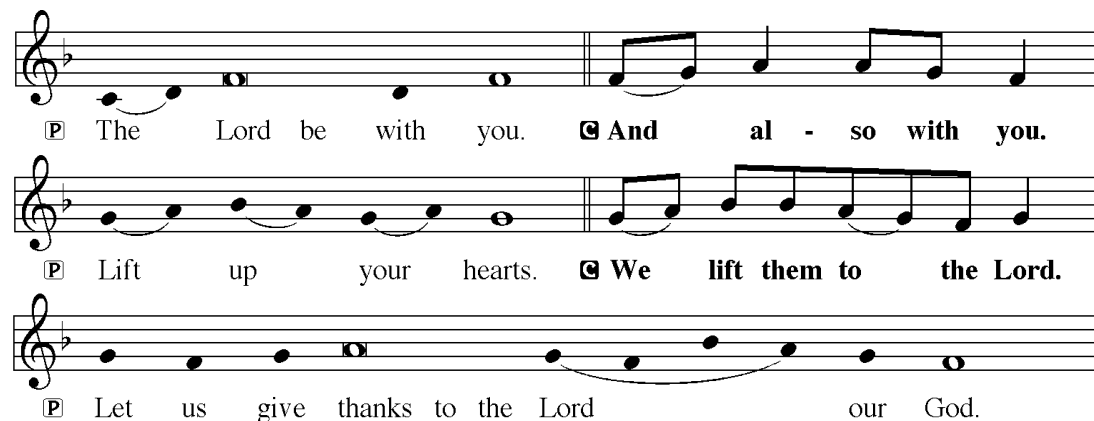
OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you,

O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them, we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world, you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish,
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you

for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,

that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

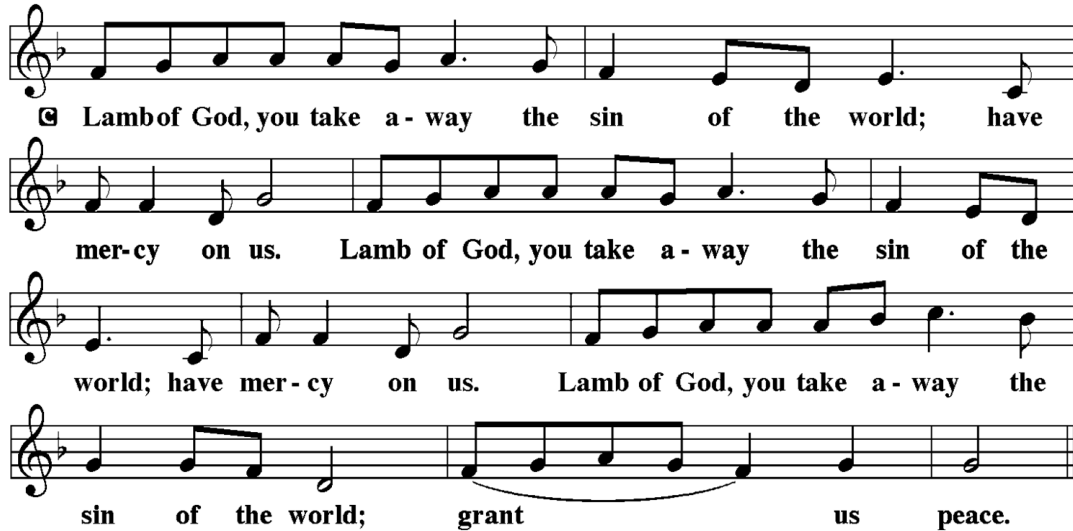
THE LORD'S PRAYER (Read in unison)

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.

INSTRUCTIONS

All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. Communicants may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it. If you or your child would like to receive a blessing rather than the Sacrament, please come forward and say, "A blessing," or cross your arms over your chest. Those who are unable to come forward may receive the Sacrament as they sit in their pew.

AGNUS DEI



♩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Christ, Be Our Light”
[See back of bulletin]

TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“My Hope Is Built”
[See back of bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

“March in B Flat”

C. Sergisson

Our Liturgy and Music are used by permission through Augsburg Fortress License #20611.

Altar Flowers are presented in honor of my dear husband Tom Wehr’s birthday by his wife, Gwen.

Bulletins are presented in loving memory of Lorain Kunkel by Julia Kunkel and family.

**Take My Voice and Let Me Sing* is presented in memory of my husband, Gary, and my brother, Lynn Sabold, by Gloria Dierwechter. (2018)

Introduction to the Day: In today’s reading from Deuteronomy, we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. Much of today’s gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments. Jesus’ instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and neighbor resulting in life and health for the whole community. We too are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL’S

Sunday, February 12	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion Second Sunday Sunday School Annual Congregational Meeting
Monday, February 13	7:00 PM	Council
Tuesday, February 14	HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY	
	1:00 PM	WELCA
Wednesday, February 15	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Thursday, February 16	6:30 PM	Constitution
Saturday, February 18	10:00 AM	STiC Succulent Plant Workshop
	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, February 19	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion

Our Annual Congregational Meeting is TODAY immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Please stay for this important meeting!

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (2/12/23)

8:00 AM

GREETER/USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Ruth Ann Withers

10:30 AM

GREETER: TBA; USHER: Diane Brobst; LECTOR: Hope Clarke

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Wayne Lutsey

ALTAR GUILD: Glenda Bright and Connie Teter

COUNTERS: Rosalie Wingle, Diane Brobst, and Marlene Eidam

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (2/19/23)

8:00 AM

GREETER/USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Kay Weidensaul

10:30 AM

GREETER: Evan Davis; USHER: Diane Brobst; LECTOR: Eric Eger

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Chris Long

ALTAR GUILD: Barbara Lafko, Amy Dewald, and Beth Post

COUNTERS: Joyce O'Rourke, Gloria Dierwechter, and Pat Davis

“SECOND SUNDAY” SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School for children ages 1 to 10 years old will continue every second Sunday of the month during the 10:30 a.m. service. Please join us **TODAY**, for Bible stories, crafts, a snack, fun, and fellowship. You can also call/text/email me with questions or to volunteer. Sarah Eger: (570) 394-3522 (cell); swoodring86@hotmail.com.

WELCA

All St. Paul's women are welcome to the Tuesday, February 14th meeting at 1 p.m. at church. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held at the same time and place on Thursday, February 16th. This is a planning session for the hosting of the WELCA Schuylkill Cluster Spring Event to be held here at St. Paul's on April 29th. The cluster is an opportunity for the women of St. Paul's to share worship and fellowship with the women of the other Lutheran churches in the area. More details will be in the March newsletter. Your December In-Gathering offering will be received. This is for the benefit of Lutheran Disaster Relief-Florida Hurricane 2022.

Easter Flower Orders

Please detach lower portion of this form and place it along with your payment
in the offering basket located in the Gathering Room,
or return it to the church by U.S. Mail.

Deadline: Sunday, March 12, 2023

Please **“PRINT”** all necessary information!

Your name: _____

FLOWER TYPE	QUANTITY	PRICE	DEDICATION
Easter Lilies	_____ X	\$9.50	H/M_____
Regular-sized Daffodils	_____ X	\$8.00	H/M_____
6-bulb Tulips (Red)	_____ X	\$8.00	H/M_____
3-bulb Hyacinths (Purple)	_____ X	\$8.00	H/M_____
3-bulb Hyacinths (Pink)	_____ X	\$8.00	H/M_____
3-bulb Hyacinths (White)	_____ X	\$8.00	H/M_____
Hydrangeas (Pink)	_____ X	\$17.00	H/M_____

[NOTE: H = In Honor of *or* M = In Memory of]

TOTAL \$ _____ CASH CHECK # _____

If more space is needed for dedications, please attach another sheet.

GATHERING HYMN “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;

praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.

Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.

calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

The musical score consists of five systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff of each system.

CRAFTER'S GUILD

The Crafter's Guild of St. Paul's will gather on Saturday, February 25th from 3 to 5 p.m. at the home of Kristin Durkee, 1097 Grove Street, Orwigsburg, PA. All crafters or people interested in learning a craft are welcome! The Guild appreciates donations of items for the crafts, too. At this time, the Guild would love quilt batting and thread. Please call Kristin Durkee (804-380-9066) or Amy Dewald (570-449-4816), if you are interested in joining this new group.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in your com - mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;

Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

ASH WEDNESDAY

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. This year our Ash Wednesday service will be held on Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m. The imposition of ashes and the sharing of Holy Communion will be offered at this service.

JUMP FOR JOY!

This is the theme of the concert being planned for August 6 to support Red Creek Wildlife Center....and we are asking for any/all church musicians, individuals, formal groups, spontaneous ensembles, to think of joyful pieces you'd be willing to share and perform. "Jump" is a style of swing music, but more to the point is JOY...the joy of music, the joy of giving and supporting, the joy of animals being able to return to a healthy life in the wild, the joy of bringing restoration where we have unwittingly caused problems. There will be a simple form to fill out and give to Sue Reier available through the Spring so we can line you up! Community musicians are also being sought.

Saturday, February 18, 10:00 AM: it's not too early to propagate plants for the 2024 Valentine giving of green. Come help plant some succulents and we'll watch them grow all year!

COMMUNION HYMN

“Christ, Be Our Light”



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



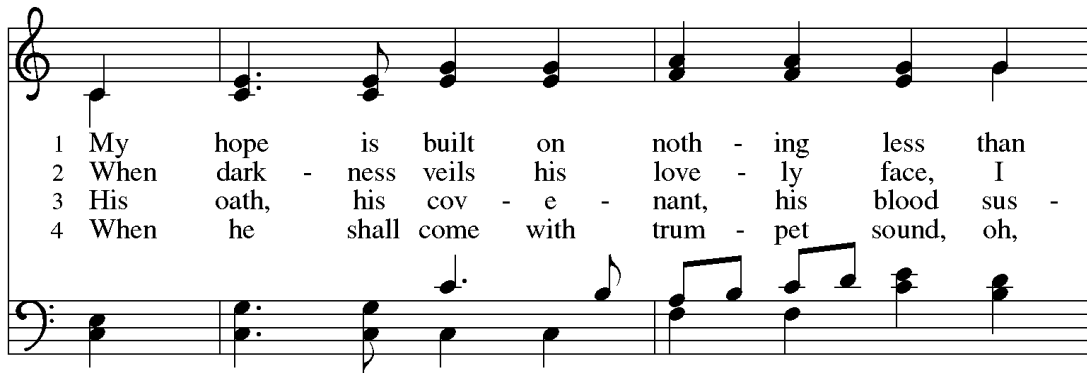
church gath - ered to - day.

EVANGELISM

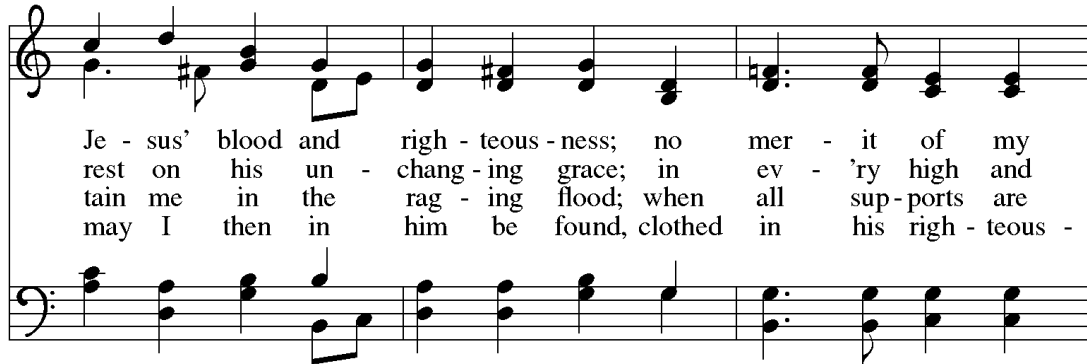
The Evangelism committee would like to continue sending cards, signed by our church family, to members who cannot worship with us in person (e.g., military personnel, and college students away from home.) Cards are located on the small table with the prayer list. Please remember to sign our card(s) upon entering or before leaving church.

SENDING HYMN

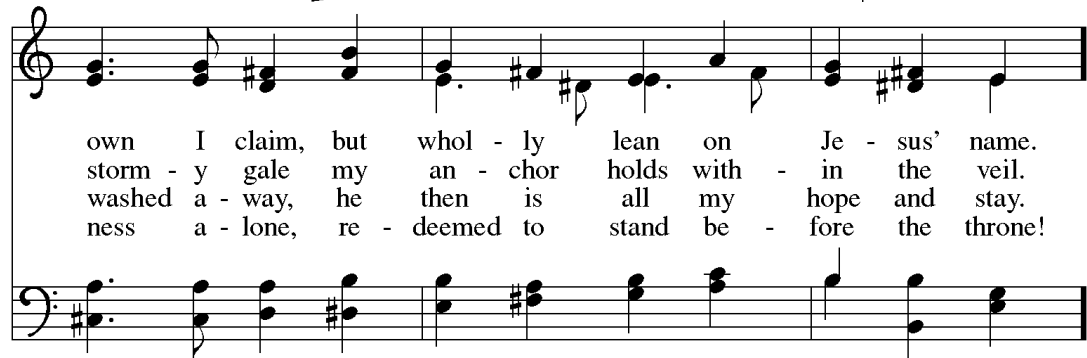
“My Hope Is Built”



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,




Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are
may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -



own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Pastor Mike will begin a series of five (5) midweek Lenten services entitled, “Gathered Around the Cross” at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 1, 2023. This series will continue each Wednesday at 7 p.m. during the month of March.