



*The purpose of our Community is:
❧❧❧ "Building Committed Followers of Jesus Christ" ❧❧❧*

Prelude

Pianist: Shirlene Everhart

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

Every worship service opens by invoking the name, the presence, and the power of the one true God, the God in whose name and by whose power we became members of the Holy Christian Church in our Baptism.

(Pastor) In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

(Everyone) Amen.

Prayer of Confession

(Everyone) Dear God, how easy it is for me to distinguish myself from "them." For the times I believe I am better than others — forgive me. For the times I put my ways on a pedestal to the neglect of others — forgive me. For the times I avert my gaze so I won't have to look at their condition — forgive me. For the times I wished they would all go away and live somewhere else — forgive me. For the times I feel no discomfort in judging others before I even know them — forgive me. For the ease with which I label people "them" and "other" — forgive me. *(Silent reflection)*

Prayer of Forgiveness

(Pastor) Hear the good news. Through Jesus Christ we have redemption and the forgiveness of sins. God hears. God cares. God forgives. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come; # 797

We Worship Through Our Giving

We express our gratitude to God as we give to support the work of the church so that more people may hear the Good News about Jesus. Please ask an usher if you need an envelope.

Offertory

We Worship Through Speaking and Hearing the Word of God

We read the Word of God to strengthen, encourage, and challenge us for the week ahead.

First Lesson for the

Isaiah 44:6-8 (NLT)

⁶ This is what the LORD says—Israel’s King and Redeemer, the LORD of Heaven’s Armies: “I am the First and the Last; there is no other God. ⁷ Who is like me? Let him step forward and prove to you his power. Let him do as I have done since ancient times when I established a people and explained its future. ⁸ Do not tremble; do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim my purposes for you long ago? You are my witnesses—is there any other God? No! There is no other Rock—not one!”

Epistle Lesson

Romans 8:18-27 (NLT)

¹⁸ Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. ¹⁹ For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. ²⁰ Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, ²¹ the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay. ²² For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. ²⁴ We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don’t need to hope for it. ²⁵ But if we look forward to something we don’t yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.) ²⁶ And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. ²⁷ And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will.

Duet

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee
Marsha Leichner & Sharlene Miller*

[Please Stand for the reading of the Gospel]

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 13:24-30,36-43 (NLT)

²⁴ Here is another story Jesus told: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. ²⁵ But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away. ²⁶ When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew. ²⁷ “The farmer’s workers went to him and said, ‘Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?’ ²⁸ “An enemy has done this!’ the farmer exclaimed. “Should we pull out the weeds?’ they asked. ²⁹ “No,’ he replied, ‘you’ll uproot the wheat if you do. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to sort out the weeds, tie them into bundles, and burn them, and to put the wheat in the barn.” ~~~ ³⁶ Then, leaving the crowds outside, Jesus went into the house. His disciples said, “Please explain to us the story of the weeds in the field.” ³⁷ Jesus replied, “The Son of Man is the farmer who plants the good seed. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed represents the people of the Kingdom. The weeds are the people who belong to the evil one. ³⁹ The enemy who planted the weeds among the wheat is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world, and the harvesters are the angels. ⁴⁰ “Just as the weeds are sorted out and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the world. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will remove from his Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² And the angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father’s Kingdom. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!

We Respond to God’s Word by Confessing Our Faith

As we recite together the words of the Apostles’ Creed, we join the worldwide chorus of followers of Jesus, who, for centuries, have confessed their faith through this simple declaration.

(Everyone) I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Communion Hymn

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands; # 586

We Worship at the table of the Lord's Supper

Communion — If you prefer grape juice instead of wine, please hold up 2 fingers when you reach the person with the cups.

Everyone who confesses Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior is welcome and invited to join us. Together we receive anew the love and grace that God pours out to us through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Come hold in your hands and taste on your lips the love He poured out for you.

Pastor: The Words of Our Lord...(Consecration of the Elements)

(Everyone) 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!

Distribution

Benediction

A blessing we receive to send us out into the world once again.

Sending Hymn

My Faith Looks Up to Thee; # 539

Pastor: Go In Peace and Serve the Lord!

(Everyone) Thanks be to God

Postlude

Things going on during the week:

Please pick up Food Bags today to use or to distribute to others.

Monday - Friday: 7:15 am to 5 pm Little Blessings Christian Preschool:

Theme: Ocean Life; Numbers: 13 & 14; Bible: Jonaj & the Whale

Thursdays: Until further notice, there will be **NO meetings** of Call Committee, Choir, Potluck, Bible Study.

Birdhouse = Building Fund Donations

Please place all and any donations for the Building Fund in the Birdhouse. This fund is needed to replace 'The Shack' and build for the future of this church. Being more visible to Mission Avenue we hope to attract Christians looking for a new home and non-Christians looking for what is missing in their life.

Mark Your Calendars!

August 2, Sunday - Love Offering ... for Missions

Once a quarter, we will be collecting a special offering in the 'Missions Giving Box' on your way out of the Sanctuary for our Missionaries. This offering is above and beyond our regular giving. In planning ahead, we will repeat the Love Offerings in 2020 on the first Sunday in February, May, August & November.

August 15, Saturday -- Free Food Distribution--At the Shack from 9 to 10 am. If you know of someone who could benefit from the free food distribution, please let them know. Also, if you can help with set-up, please come at 8:30 am. If you can come later and stay until about 11:00 am to help with putting away leftover food, tables and chairs, your help will be greatly appreciated. Join us in thanking God for the continuation of this ministry! The Blue bin on the North wall of the Church is for the collection of can goods for the Food Distribution.



Birthdays and Anniversaries: July 2020

Please share your name, birthday and anniversary via the Connection Card and place it in the offering plate. [PS] denotes our Preschoolers or the staff.

Birthdays: 15-Sandy Dahl; 21-David LeDoux; 24-Marsha Leichner

Anniversaries: 28-Gene & Kristen Erwin [PS]

