



And who knows
if perhaps you
have come to the
kingdom for such
a time as this?

Esther 4:14

The purpose of our Community is:

✠✠✠ “Building Committed Followers of Jesus Christ” ✠✠✠

Prelude

Pianist: Aretta Engelhardt or 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.

Dedication and Blessings of Prayer Shawls

The shawls that we bless and dedicate today are “A gift of care, compassion, and love ... from your Community Family. As these shawls surround and enfold the recipients, we pray that they will be reminded of Christ’s: healing presence; comfort and courage; strength and endurance; warmth, wisdom and unending love; promise of eternal life with Him.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry was founded by Vicki Galo and Janet Bristow in 1998 after they had graduated from the Women’s Leadership Institute [at Hartford Seminary]. They felt called to knit shawls for women with breast cancer and new mothers. The word of their knitting for others in need spread and other classmates joined them. The Prayer Shawl Ministry expanded to include many other needs and celebrations and is now an international cause.

Prayer of Dedication and Blessing

Prayer of Confession of Sin

We pray to confess our sin to God and ask His forgiveness to remain humble before Him.

(Everyone) Gracious Heavenly Father, on this second Sunday in May, we joyfully thank You for this family day, and for our families and loved ones in Christ! Yet we also realize that, even in our Christian homes, we occasionally sin against one another. We sometimes let emotions run high, and we say things that we later regret. We must admit that we have often transgressed Your will and fallen in weakness. Our language has not always been appropriate, and our thoughts have not always been pure. For all these sins we come now in confession, and humbly seek Your pardon and mercy. Please forgive

us for the sake of Christ's suffering and death on our behalf, and may our individual and family lives in this Easter season serve our Savior in great joy and peace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Declaration of Grace

We remember the Good News that God forgives our sin because of Jesus.

(Pastor) The Bible tells us that we are to penitently and sincerely confess our sins. Having done so in faith, we now humbly seek God's pardon. Christ has promised to us His forgiveness because of His suffering and death at Calvary. Thus, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, and in the stead and by command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Opening Hymn

For All the Saints, # 164

Children's Sermonette: 'A parent's patience...' Pastor McDonald

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.

Old Testament Lesson

Esther 4:1-17 (KJV)

¹ When Mordecai learned all that had happened, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city. He cried out with a loud and bitter cry. ² He went as far as the front of the king's gate, for no one *might* enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. ³ And in every province where the king's command and decree arrived, *there was* great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes. ⁴ So Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her, and the queen was deeply distressed. Then she sent garments to clothe Mordecai and take his sackcloth away from him, but he would not accept *them*. ⁵ Then Esther called Hathach, *one* of the king's eunuchs whom he had appointed to attend her, and she gave him a command concerning Mordecai, to learn what and why this was. ⁶ So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the city square that was in front of the king's gate. ⁷ And Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries to destroy the Jews. ⁸ He also gave him a copy of the written decree for their destruction, which was given at Shushan, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her, and that he might command her to go in to the king to make supplication to him and plead before

him for her people. ⁹ So Hathach returned and told Esther the words of Mordecai.

¹⁰ Then Esther spoke to Hathach, and gave him a command for Mordecai: ¹¹ “All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that any man or woman who goes into the inner court to the king, who has not been called, *he has* but one law: put *all* to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter, that he may live. Yet I myself have not been called to go in to the king these thirty days.” ¹² So they told Mordecai Esther’s words. ¹³ And Mordecai told *them* to answer Esther: “Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king’s palace any more than all the other Jews. ¹⁴ For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for *such* a time as this?” ¹⁵ Then Esther told *them* to reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶ “Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which *is* against the law; and if I perish, I perish!” ¹⁷ So Mordecai went his way and did according to all that Esther commanded him.

Epistle

Acts 10:34-48 (NKJV)

³⁴ Then Peter opened *his* mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. ³⁵ But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. ³⁶ The word which *God* sent to the children of Israel preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all— ³⁷ that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. ³⁹ And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. ⁴⁰ Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, ⁴¹ not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, *even* to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. ⁴² And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God *to be* Judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission] of sins.” The Holy Spirit Falls on the Gentiles ⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, ⁴⁷ “Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *have*?” ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

Choir

As Water to the Thirsty

by John Carter

Message Notes cont'd: _____

General Prayer

Communion Hymn

Just As I Am, without One Plea, # 417

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

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound, # 578

(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: Frog & Pond Animals; Numbers: #6; Bible: Jesus Feeds the 5000
Wednesdays: 5 pm Choir; 6:30 pm Potluck; 7 pm 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!

May 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.

June 5, Saturday Women's Bible study, 10 am, Book of Acts

August 1, 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.



Some uses for the Prayer Shawls...

Shawls can be used for: undergoing medical procedures or surgery; as a comfort after a loss or during bereavement; marriage ceremonies; baby's birth or baptism; first time mothers; during an illness and recovery; loss of a job; making a move to other state or country; graduations, birthdays, anniversaries; extreme stress or anxiety ... there are endless possibilities!

For All the Saints

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confest,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress, and their Might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in darkness drear, their one true Light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
Fight as the Saints who nobly fought of old
And win with them the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine,
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus

I am trusting You, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only You;
Trusting You for full salvation,
Free and true..

I am trusting You for pardon;
At Your feet I bow,
For Your grace and tender mercy
Trusting now.

I am trusting You for cleansing
In the crimson flood;
Trusting You to make me holy
By Your blood.

I am trusting You to guide me;
You alone shalt lead,
Ev'ry day and hour supplying
All my need.

Just As I Am, without One Plea

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, come.

Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, come.

Just as I am, tho' tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Dread fears within, and strife without,
O Lamb of God, I come, come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find
O Lamb of God, I come, come.

Just as I am! Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am! Thy love unknown
Hast broken every barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord hath promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.