

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God is eager to restore us to right relationships.
The creator is waiting to claim us now as God's own.

**ALL: We have come to meet the God who welcomes us.
We have gathered to experience God's steadfast love.**

ONE: Listen, for God will speak to those who want to hear.
Turn your hearts toward the one who saves.

**ALL: We bow down to receive God's mercy.
We open ourselves to the source of peace.**

ONE: God will answer us and will give what is good.
God restores us to faithfulness and righteousness.

**ALL: We come asking, searching, and knocking.
We seek the good gifts only God can provide.**

*Hymn of Praise "Join All the Glorious Names" Celebration Hymnal No. 132

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

Living God, we come as your children to be reclaimed and blessed. We need the inner strength that comes to us through worship. All week long we have wrestled with emptiness and deceit on every hand. Take away the noisy clamor that would make us captives of human traditions. Turn us toward the source of our salvation, toward your steadfast love. Amen.

Worship in Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

*Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*Offertory Prayer

*Passing the Peace of Christ

Congregational Prayer

Sharing Prayer Concerns

Hymn of Prayer

"Seek Ye First"

Celebration Hymnal No. 713

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer:

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 debts,

as we forgive our debtors and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power

and the glory forever. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Genesis 18:20-33

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen, Amen.

Sermon

"Let's Make a Deal"

Rev. Lew Worthington

*Hymn of Response

"Day by Day"

Celebration Hymnal No. 718

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

"Make Us One"

Make us one Lord, make us one

Holy Spirit, make us one

Let our love flow, so the world will know

We are one in you, we are one in you.

*Postlude

*We invite you to stand if you are able.

Genesis 18:20-33

²⁰Then the Lord said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin!

²¹I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

²²So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord.

²³Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?

²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it?

²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?"

²⁶And the Lord said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake."

²⁷Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes.

²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there."

²⁹Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it."

³⁰Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there."

³¹He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it."

³²Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just

once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

³³And the Lord went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.

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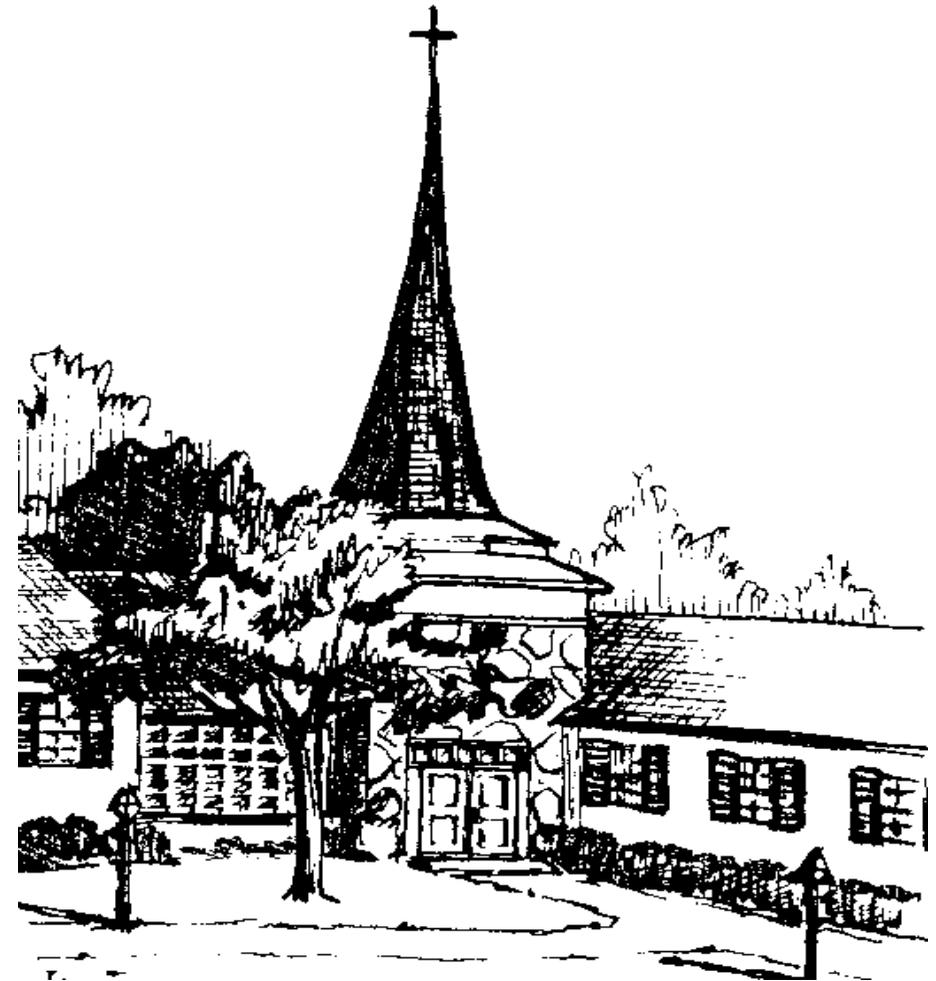
The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Church Covenant

We are banded together as a Christian Church to maintain the worship of God the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer; to proclaim the gospel of Christ, to develop in ourselves and others a consciousness of our relationship and duties to God and each other; to create a spirit of love for truth, a passion for righteousness and enthusiasm for service; to respect and protect all of God's creation. To this end we pledge our loyalty to Christ and covenant with God and with each other to strive to express God's spirit in our individual and corporate life; to live together as Christians and to submit ourselves to the government of this church, working, giving, praying for its increase, purity and peace, seeking in every way to make it a power for the building up of the Kingdom of God.

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