

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship – Psalm 99

Leader: The Lord is king. Let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim. Let the earth quake!

People: The Lord is great in Zion. He is exalted over all people and all nations.

Leader: Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!

People: Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity. You have executed justice and righteousness.

Leader: Extol the Lord our God. Worship at his footstool. Holy is he!

People: Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy.

*Song of Praise *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* Celebration Hymnal No. 11

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Father in heaven, we thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Every Sunday is a celebration of Easter. On the first Palm Sunday, He declared that He was the long expected Messiah. But by the end of the week, the crowds who adored Him called for His crucifixion. However, You raised Him from the dead, and You proved that He did all things well according to Your will. Father, we adore You and love You for the great sacrifice You and Your Son made on our behalf, that You could extend mercy to us justly. Fill us now with Your Holy Spirit that we might be guided and empowered to live holy for You. Amen.

First Lesson

Ezekiel 22:23-30

Second Lesson

Matthew 21:23-32

*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

A Call to Leadership

Rev. Dr. Eugene A. Blair

Hymn of Reflection

Here I Am, Lord

Celebration Hymnal No. 589

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.*

*Hymn of Going Forth

Onward, Christian Soldiers

Celebration Hymnal No. 731

*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.

First Lesson

Ezekiel 22:23-30

²³The word of the Lord came to me: ²⁴Mortal, say to it: You are a land that is not cleansed, not rained upon in the day of indignation. ²⁵Its princes within it are like a roaring lion tearing the prey; they have devoured human lives; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows within it. ²⁶Its priests have done violence to my teaching and have profaned my holy things; they have made no distinction between the holy and the common, neither have they taught the difference between the unclean and the clean, and they have disregarded my sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them. ²⁷Its officials within it are like wolves tearing the prey, shedding blood, destroying lives to get dishonest gain. ²⁸Its prophets have smeared whitewash on their behalf, seeing false visions and divining lies for them, saying, "Thus says the Lord God," when the Lord has not spoken. ²⁹The people of the land have practiced extortion and committed robbery; they have oppressed the poor and needy, and have extorted from the alien without redress. ³⁰And I sought for anyone among them who would repair the wall and stand in the breach before me on behalf of the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one.

Second Lesson

Matthew 21:23-32

²³When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

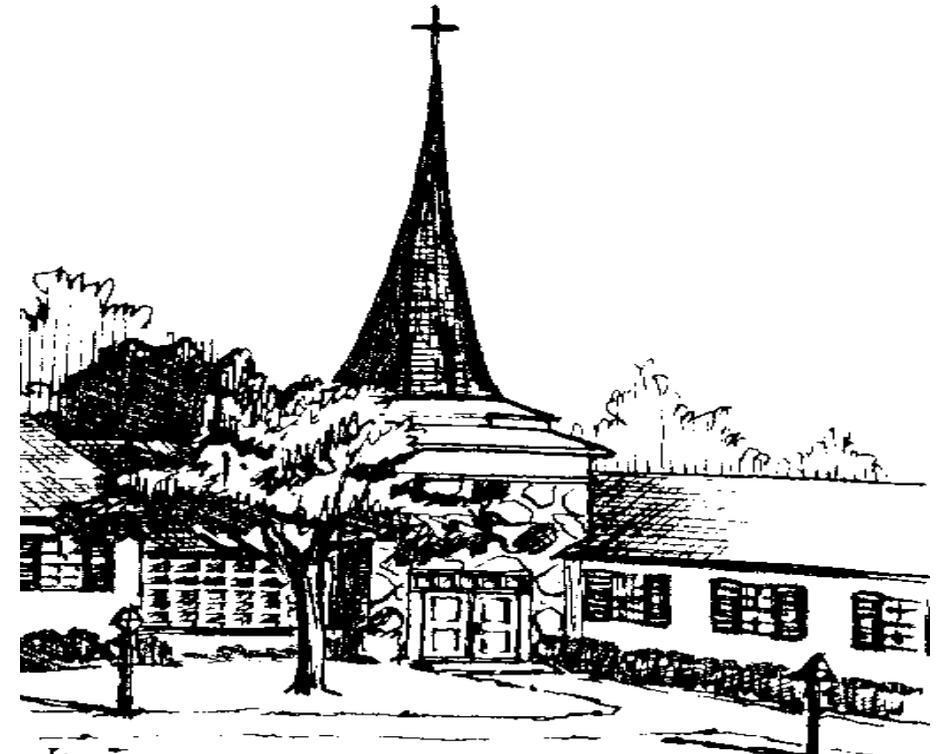
The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

WELCOME!

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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