

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

*Call to Worship – Psalm 78*

*Leader: We will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.*

***People: God appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children; that the next generation might know them, and rise up and tell them to their children.***

*Leader: So that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.*

***People: The Lord chose Mount Zion, which he loves. He built his sanctuary like the high heavens, like the earth, which he has founded forever.***

*Leader: He chose his servant David and took him from the sheepfolds.*

***People: With upright heart he tended them and guided them with skillful hand.***

Hymn of Praise

*How Great Thou Art*

No. 147

Invocation

***Heavenly Father, we thank You for revealing Your Law to us, and for teaching us to love You, the only true God, and our neighbors as ourselves. But we confess that we have failed to keep Your Law. Therefore, we thank You for sending us a Savior from sin and death, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit that we might be empowered and led to do what is right in Your eyes, even as we pray and worship in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen***

First Lesson

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Second Lesson

Matthew 25:1-13

\*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 Parable of Readiness*

Rev. Dr. Eugene A. Blair

Hymn of Reflection

*At the Name of Jesus*

Celebration Hymnal No. 766

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

*When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder*

Celebration Hymnal No. 700

\*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

### ***I Thessalonians 4:13-18***

<sup>13</sup>But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

## Second Lesson

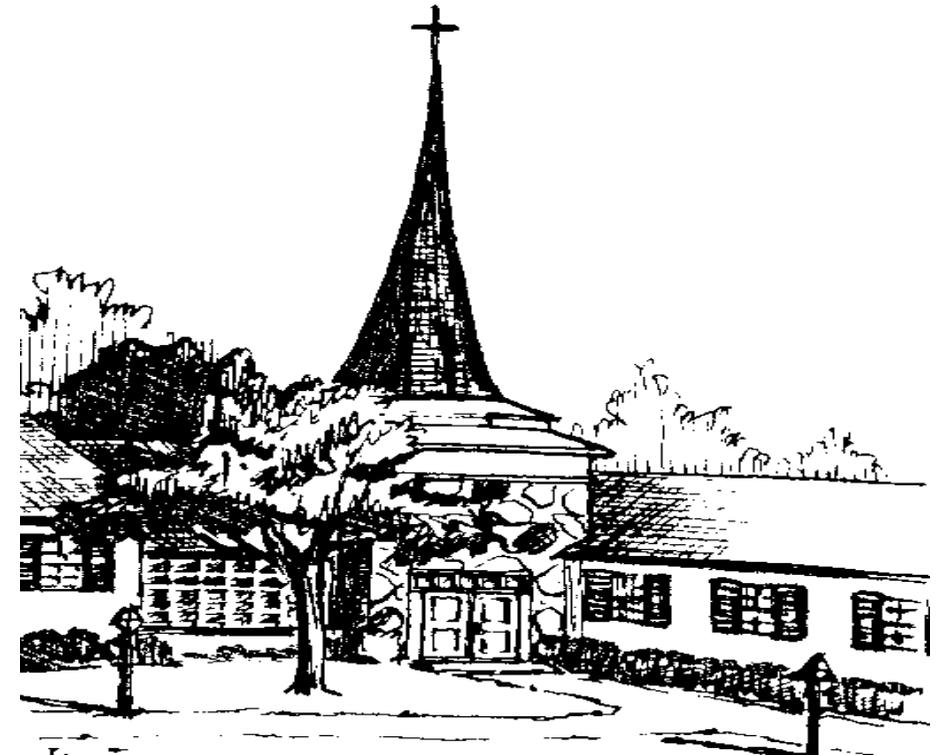
### ***Matthew 25:1-13***

**25**“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup>But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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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