

Toll free conference call number (844) 855-4444, access code 654132#

Worship will also be connected through Facebook Live



## Worship

January 8, 2023

11:15 am

+Stand as you are able

## Gathering

### Welcome and Announcements

### Lighting of the Christ Candle

### Centering Music

### +Call to Worship

L: Light looked down and saw darkness.

**P: "I will go there," said Light.**

L: Peace looked down and saw war.

**P: "I will go there," said Peace**

L: Love looked down and saw hatred.

**P: "I will go there," said Love**

L: So he, the Lord of Light, the Prince of Peace, the King of Love, came down and crept in beside us.

Let us pray:

**Lord of Light, you are the word who came and dwelt among us. Bring to us today the peace of your spirit and the love of your heart, and show us how to share them both lovingly and generously. Amen.**

**+Hymn**     *Star Child*     #2095

### Call to Confession

Though as creations of God we are good, we are touched by sin. Let us seek new beginnings by asking God to forgive us:

### Prayer of Confession

**God of light and hope, you teach us that loving our neighbors is the way to live in peace. But our self-interest keeps us from loving others as you have loved us. We forget that the poor, the hungry, the sick and the lonely need our love; we forget that we don't always recognize who in our society is oppressed. We are afraid of losing what we have—money, status, security—and so we become grasping and mean. Forgive us, gracious God, for the ways in which we fall short in your eyes; help us to embody the goodness of Christ, your Word in our world. Amen. (*Moment of silent prayer*)**

## Assurance of Pardon

L: "From his fullness we have received grace upon grace." Friends, receive this gift of grace today, for in Christ we are forgiven.

**P: In Christ we are showered with grace and forgiveness! Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## Response of Praise *Awesome God (3x)*

*Our God is an awesome God, who reigns from heaven above*

*With wisdom power and love, our God is an awesome God!*

## Passing of the Peace

L: As God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another: the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Let us share the sign of the peace with one another.

## Hearing the Word

### Prayer for Illumination

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading** **Isaiah 42: 1-9** Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. <sup>2</sup>He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; <sup>3</sup>a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. <sup>4</sup>He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

<sup>5</sup>Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: <sup>6</sup>I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, <sup>7</sup>to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. <sup>8</sup>I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. <sup>9</sup>See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

**Hymn** *Christ, When For Us You Were Baptized* #70 (sung to #466)

**Gospel Reading** **Matthew 3:13-17** <sup>13</sup>Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

## Sermon

## Responding to the Word

### Offering Prayer

L: The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it,

**P: The world, and those who live in it.**

L: Heaven and earth are yours, O Lord,

**P: and of your own we give you.**

L: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; in the way of Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray, saying: ***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.***

**Response of Praise**    *We Give Thee But Thine Own*    #428 v.1

*We give thee but thine own, whate'er the give may be;  
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.*

### Joys and Concerns

#### Prayers of the People

For the church, the world, and all in need, let us pray to the Lord, saying:

God of Grace, **Hear our prayer**

For leaders and people in every land, that they may know your way and do your will . . .

For justice throughout the world, that there may be peace and plenty for all . . .

For the earth you have made, that it may flourish in beauty and show your glory . . .

For all those who hunger and thirst, that they may be filled with good things . . .

For those who are ill or close to death, that they may know your loving care . .

For those mentioned in our joys and concerns today...

*Time for silent prayer...*

Receive all these prayers, O God, in the tenderness of your mighty hand, and strengthen our hands to serve you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Taking the Word into the World

**+Song**    *As a Fire Is Meant for Burning*    #2237

### +Charge and Benediction