

SEEKING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Welcome Rev. Chris Michael
 Bringing of the Light
 Bell of Mindfulness
 (Please use this time for quiet reflection.)

Prelude Ann Jeannette Pierce, Piano
 "In the Bleak Midwinter
 Gustav Holst
 arr. Mark Hayes

*Call to Worship Kyle Aud
 One: A star shining brightly in the East,
All: discovered, by those who have eyes to see the unusual and the challenging.
 One: A journey into unknown territory,
All: taken by those who have courage and curiosity.
 One: An encounter with an evil, commanding presence,
All: evil that was faced, yet resisted with care.
 One: The Holy One recognized, in spite of humble origin,
 All: the glory and the gifts, given to God's Chosen Child. Let us worship God!

***Hymn #90**
"Come, Christians, Join to Sing" (all)

*Invocation and Lord's Prayer Kyle Aud
 (using "debts" and "debtors")

First Scripture Reading Kyle Aud
 Matthew 5:1-12
 One: The Word of God for the people of God
All: Thanks be to God.

Children's Blessing Rev. Chris Michael
 Children ages 3 through 2nd grade are invited forward for a blessing, then will be escorted to Worship and Wonder (located at the end of the first floor education wing)

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Chris Michael
HEARING THE WORD OF GOD
 Message in Music
 "Weary Traveler" Maurice Hanley, solo
 St. Cyr

Second Scripture Reading Rev. Chris Michael
 Matthew 5:13-20
 One: The Word of God for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Rev. Chris Michael
 "Where to Begin?"

Invitation to Discipleship

***Hymn #272**
"The Church's One Foundation " (vs. 1, 2, & 5)

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

Preparation for the Offering Rev. Chris Michael
 Offertory Ann Jeannette Pierce, Piano
 "The Coventry Carol"
 Traditional English Melody
 arr. Sharon Aaronson

*Doxology and Presentation of Gifts (Page 46)
 *Dedication Prayer

RENEWING THE COVENANT IN THE LORD'S SUPPER

We are one in Christ, let everyone share in this communion without regard for denominational affiliation.
You are invited to take the cup and bread after your prayers.
 Invitation to Communion Mike & Angela Bruce
 Words of Institution
 Prayer of Thanksgiving

Communion Music Maurice Hanley, solo
 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

GOING IN PEACE TO LOVE AND TO SERVE

*Benediction Rev. Chris Michael
 One: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.

*Please stand if you are able.

Scripture Readings**First Reading- Matthew 5:1-12**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
 3 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. 8 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 10 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Second Reading- Matthew 5:13-20

13 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. 14 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. 17 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.