

Please be seated

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### MESSAGE SONG

**"Raised From Death to Love and Living"**

1. Raised from death to love and living,  
Freed from sin to serve our Lord;  
Called to share His holy purpose,  
Know His likeness here restored;  
Holy God, I stand before you,  
Pardoned, cleansed and reconciled.  
Help me live as in your presence:  
Holy Father, Holy child.

2. What a loving, faithful Father,  
Mighty God; who knows each need.  
All His paths are truth and kindness.  
When we daily let Him lead.  
Father God, I stand before you,  
Pardoned, cleansed and reconciled.  
Help me live as in your presence:  
Caring Father, trusting child.

1984 Pilot Point Music  
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### MESSAGE OF THE DAY

**"GOD IS IN YOUR MIDST!"** *The Rev. Tyler Werner*

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

### 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen**

## MEMORY VERSE

The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. (Zephaniah 3:17)

## BENEDICTION

### CLOSING SONG "Jesus, Name Above All Names"

1. Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior,  
glorious Lo--rd, Emmanuel, God is with us blessed  
Redeemer, living Word.

2. Jesus, loving shepherd vine of the branches,  
Son of Go--d, Prince of peace, Wonderful counselor  
Lord of the universe, Light of the world.

3. Jesus, Way of salvation, King of kings, Lord of lo--rds,  
The way the truth, and the Life, Mighty creator,  
My Savior and friend.

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P. Go in God's peace; love and serve your neighbor!  
C. Thanks be to God!

\* \* \* **To God Be the Glory** \* \* \*

### LEADING WORSHIP

**Presiding:** The Rev. Paul Rieger  
**Preaching:** The Rev. Tyler Werner  
**Music:** Barbara Mrosko  
**Special Music:** Gavin Pribbenow  
**Radio Room:** Todd Voge  
**Elder:** Jacob Langeslag  
**Worship Assistant:** Dave Malmanger  
**Soundboard:** Bob Sommers

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## THE CONNECTION

December 12, 2021  
10:30am

**"CONNECT...  
GROW...  
GO..."**



## WELCOME / CALL TO WORSHIP

### MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE / TITHES & OFFERING

P Let us now say together our memory verse.  
<sup>9</sup>And it is my prayer that your love may abound more  
and more, with knowledge and all discernment,  
<sup>10</sup>so that you may approve what is excellent, and so  
be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,  
(Philippians 1:9-10)

### WORSHIP SONG "I've Got the Joy"

1. I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart,  
Down in my heart, down in my heart!  
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down my heart,  
Down in my heart to stay!  
And it's the greatest, grandest feeling,  
And it's a feeling here to stay!  
And it's a joy that needs revealing, So I just want to say:

2. I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus  
down in my heart,  
Down in my heart, down in my heart!  
I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus down in my  
heart, Down in my heart to stay!  
And it's the greatest, grandest feeling,  
And it's a feeling here to stay!  
And it's a love that needs revealing,  
So I just want to say:

(continued...)

3. I've got the peace that passes understanding  
down in my heart,  
Down in my heart, down in my heart!  
I've got the peace that passes understanding  
down in my heart, Down in my heart to stay!  
And it's the greatest, grandest feeling,  
And it's a feeling here to stay!  
And it's a peace that needs revealing,  
So I just want to say:

4. I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart,  
Down in my heart, down in my heart!  
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart,  
Down in my heart to stay!

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### OPENING IN THE NAME OF THE TRINITY

P. We begin our service in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C. Amen**

### CONFESSION OF SINS AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

P. Let us come before God as sinful people in need of  
His love and mercy:

**C. Lord, we come before You in prayer today, asking  
for forgiveness. We have not loved as we ought  
to love, we have not given as we ought to give,  
and we have fallen short of the mark of  
truly being Your obedient sons and daughters.  
We see our sin and remember our shortcomings  
in love and life. For Jesus' sake, forgive our sins.**

P. God our heavenly Creator, hears the prayers of all  
people and answers those prayers. Our prayer for  
forgiveness is answered in Jesus Christ, God's Son,  
who died for our sin that we might have new life.  
To those who believe God's word of truth comes the  
power to be the people of God. In this name of God,  
and by His authority, as a called and ordained servant  
of God, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the  
Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C. Amen**

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

#### FIRST READING *Zephaniah 3:14-20*

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter of Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;  
he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall never again fear evil.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

"Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with gladness;

he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing.

<sup>18</sup>I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,  
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

<sup>19</sup>Behold, at that time I will deal  
with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you in,

at the time when I gather you together;

for I will make you renowned and praised

among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes

before your eyes," says the LORD.

P. This is the Word of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

#### SPECIAL MUSIC "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Gavin Pribbenow, Piano

#### SECOND READING *Philippians 4:4-7*

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your  
reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do  
not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and  
supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known  
to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understand-  
ing, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

P. This is the Word of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

### (Please stand)

#### GOSPEL READING *Luke 7:18-28*

<sup>18</sup>The disciples of John reported all these things to him.

And John, <sup>19</sup>calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to  
the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall  
we look for another?" <sup>20</sup>And when the men had come to him,  
they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are  
you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'"

<sup>21</sup>In that hour he healed many people of diseases and  
plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he be-  
stowed sight. <sup>22</sup>And he answered them, "Go and tell John  
what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight,  
the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the  
dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to  
them. <sup>23</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

<sup>24</sup>When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to  
speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out  
into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?

<sup>25</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft  
clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing  
and live in luxury are in kings' courts. <sup>26</sup>What then did you go  
out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a  
prophet. <sup>27</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will  
prepare your way before you."

<sup>28</sup>I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than  
John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is  
greater than he."

P. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

### STATEMENT OF WHAT WE BELIEVE

#### *Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven  
and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our  
Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of  
the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was  
crucified, died and was buried. He descended into  
hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He  
ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of  
God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to  
judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy  
Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of  
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the  
body, and the life everlasting. Amen