

Scriptural Meditation

*So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view.
Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*
II Corinthians 5:16-17

~Gathering the Family of God~

The Peal of Our Church Bell

Welcome and Greeting One Another with the Peace of Christ

Prelude *As the Deer (#626)* arr. by John Carter

Call to Worship

One: We have been given a ministry of reconciliation and sharing.
All: God reconciled us to God’s self through the witness of Jesus Christ.
One: No longer do we need to fear.
All: Hope has been given to us.
One: So we are now ambassadors for Christ.
God is making God’s appeal to all humankind through us –
in all that we say, think and do.
**All: Praise be to God who has placed God’s trust in us.
We will strive to serve God faithfully.**

Prayer of Invocation

* **Gathering Song** *Morning Has Broken* #664

* **Prayer of Reconciliation**

Let us remain standing and express ourselves to God.
All: Dear God, the scripture today is about the “Prodigal Son.” But do we really understand what it is about? Do we know that we have also been stubborn and selfish, angry and unforgiving, sorrowful and caught between conflicting factions? We are no different from these characters, in our own unique way. Yet, in God’s infinite love, we also are forgiven and healed. Open our hearts and our spirits to truly receive the blessings of your healing love. For it is in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, that we pray. Amen.

***A Time for Contemplation** (a private time for you and God)

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

One: Once we were “dead” to all the things that God hoped for us;
Yet in God’s love we are again brought to life.
Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.
All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

God’s Word for Little Ears

Prayer for Understanding God’s Word

All: God, source of all light, by Your Word, You give light to the soul. Pour out upon us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that, being taught by You in Holy Scripture, our hearts and minds may be opened to know the things that pertain to life and holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson Joshua 5:9-12 page 197

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm Psalm 32

One: Count yourself lucky, how happy you must be—
you get a fresh start, your slate’s wiped clean
All: Count yourself lucky—God holds nothing against you and you’re holding nothing back from him.
One: When I kept it all inside, my bones turned to powder,
my words became daylong groans.
All: The pressure never let up; all the juices of my life dried up.
One: Then I let it all out; I said, “I’ll make a clean breast of my failures to God.”
All: Suddenly the pressure was gone—my guilt dissolved, my sin disappeared.
One: These things add up. Every one of us needs to pray;
when all hell breaks loose and the dam bursts
we’ll be on high ground, untouched.
All: God’s my island hideaway, keeps danger far from the shore, throws garlands of hosannas around my neck.
One: Let me give you some good advice; I’m looking you in the eye
and giving it to you straight:
All: “Don’t be ornery like a horse or mule that needs bit and bridle to stay on track.”
One: God-defiers are always in trouble;
God-affirmers find themselves loved every time they turn around.
**All: Celebrate God. Sing together—everyone!
All you honest hearts, raise the roof!**

New Testament Epistle II Corinthians 5:16-21 page 181

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Lesson Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 page 78

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Message *Journey Inward/Journey Outward* Pastor Kim Nelson
A Timeless Story

~Responding to God's Word~

***Affirmation of Faith**

Let us stand and affirm our faith.

**All: We believe in God above us, Maker and Sustainer of life,
Of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female.**

**We believe in God beside us,
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
Born of a woman, a servant of the poor,
Tortured and nailed to a tree.**

**A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.
He descended into the earth to the place of death.**

**On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present,
And his kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us,
The Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
Life-Giving breath of the Church,
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
Source of resurrection and eternal life. Amen.**

[An Affirmation of Faith from Iona]

Invitation to Become a Joyful Giver

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings & Friendship Pad

Please take a moment to sign your name and contact information in the pew pad.

Offertory Anthem *And the Father Will Dance* by Mark Hayes

Refrain: And the Father will dance over you in joy!
He will take delight in whom He loves.
Is that a choir I hear singing the praises of God?
No, the Lord God Himself is exulting o'er you in song!
And He will joy over you in song!

Verses: My soul will make its boast in God,
For He has answered all my cries.
His faithfulness to me is as sure as the dawn of a new day.

Awake my soul! Awake my soul and sing! Let my spirit rejoice in God!
Sing, O daughter of Zion, with all of your heart!

Cast away fear for you have been restored!
Put on the garment of praise as on a festival day.
Join with the Father in glorious, jubilant song.
And He will joy over you in song! (Refrain)

Final Refrain: God rejoices over you. God rejoices over you in song!
[Text: Adapted from Zephaniah 3:14, 17 & Psalm 34:2-4]

***Doxology** (Tune: *Amazing Grace*)

**All: Praise God the Father, Praise His name
Praise Jesus Christ, Our Lord.
And praise the Spirit with them one
Now and forevermore.**

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Celebration of Holy Communion

Communion Music *Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken* # 498

The Lord's Prayer

**All: 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.**

Sung Prayer Response

O Lord, Hear My Prayer (# 471)
**O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer,
When I call, answer me,
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me. (Repeat)**

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~Going Forth to Serve God~

Life in Our Church Community

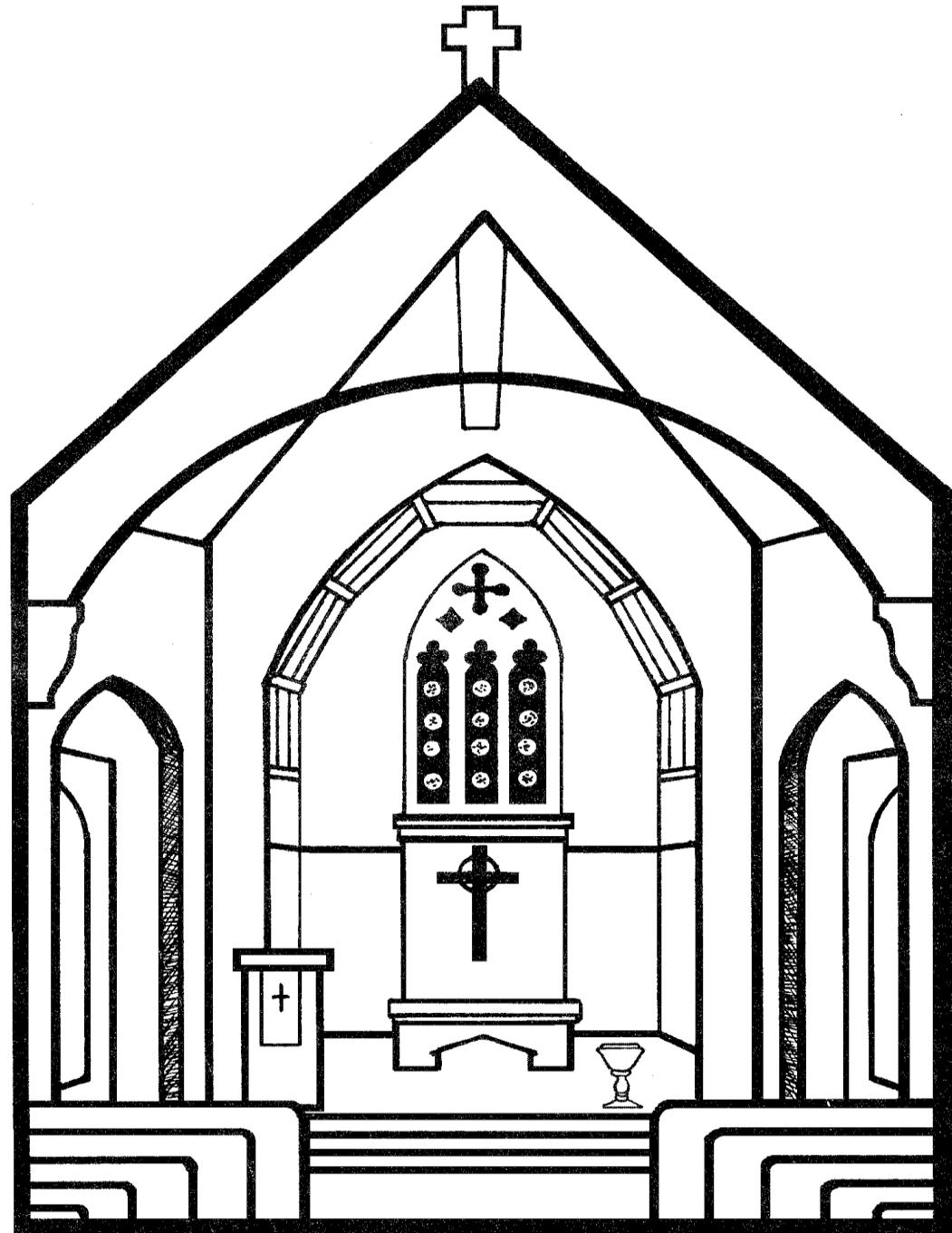
***Song of Sending Forth** *Amazing Grace* # 649

***Benediction**

***Postlude** *Gaelic Tune* arr. by Hal Hopson

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***Please stand, if you are able.**
Electronic aid for the hearing impaired is available from the usher.
Music printed and recorded for congregational use only under CCLI # 11373529



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