

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)**

God of changed plans,

The Magi heard in a dream that they were to take a new way home—a different path, an untraveled road. And to our amazement, they did just that. The Magi packed their bags and went home by another way.

We wish that change could be easy for us, but more often than not, when whispers of change come, we tend to clench our fists and hold on tighter.

Forgive us for resisting change that might be holy.

Forgive us for ignoring that there is more than one road home.

Forgive us for failing to hear your invitation.

Guide our steps to unfamiliar places.

Gratefully we pray, amen.

(silent reflection)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsively)**

One: No matter which roads we take in this one wild and precious life,
God walks with us. God never leaves our side.
When the road changes and we find ourselves on a new path home,
God is always there.

All: **So hear and believe this good news:
No matter where we go, no matter what we do,
we are claimed, loved, and held by God.
Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.**

***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.*

WELCOME

We invite all our guests to identify themselves as they wish.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDRENS TIME – Elder Richard Carter

ANTHEM “*Seeking the King*” - Chopin

SCRIPTURE – the Prophets Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
³For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
⁴Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
⁵Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
⁷everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

*Holy wisdom, holy word, **thanks be to God.***

SCRIPTURE – the Gospels

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*Holy wisdom, holy word, **thanks be to God.***

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Profession of Faith

Beloved people of God...

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God,
do you turn from the ways of sin
and renounce evil and its power in the world?

I do.

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple,
obeying his word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

The Apostle's 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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Thanksgiving Over the Waters

Renewal of Baptism

You are invited to come forward to one of the bowls at the front and one of our elders will place a small glass pebble in your hand as a reminder of your baptism

SHARING OUR PRAYERS FOR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD

***DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF OUR OFFERINGS**

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Baptized in Water”

No. 482

*1 Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit,
Cleansed by the blood of Christ our King:
Heirs of salvation, Trusting His promise,
Faithfully now God's praise we sing.*

*3 Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit,
Marked with the sign of Christ our King:
Born of one Father, We are His children,
Joyfully now God's praise we sing.*

*2 Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit,
Dead in the tomb with Christ our King:
One with His rising, freed and forgiven,
Thankfully now God's praise we sing.*

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

“Go Tell It On The Mountain” #136 Verse 3

*Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

*Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.*

*Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

POSTLUDE *“Star of the East”* - Shea

Upcoming Dates

This afternoon

3:00 pm **Ordination service for Joy Church** to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. This is a special service officiated by de Cristo Presbytery, but it is also our send-off to Joy and her husband, Gary, as they move to Nebraska for Joy's new call.

Saturday, January 15th

11:00 am Memorial Service for Janet (Jani) Klucsarits