

St. Johns Lutheran Church

Sunday, February 9, 2025

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

The Season of

Epiphany

Welcome to *St. John's Lutheran Church*



Fishing boat and nets on the beach. Copyright © 2024 John Warburton Lee/Superstock. Used by permission.

Ministry Staff

Senior Pastor

Amy C. Figg Ley—amy@sjlcknox.org

Pastor of Worship

John Tirro—john@sjlcknox.org

Minister of Music

Deborah Dunne-Sousa—
sousa@esknoxville.org

Senior Administrative Assistant

Toni Denton—toni@sjlcknox.org

Children, Youth, and Family Faith Formation Director

Sara Whitehead—sara@sjlcknox.org

Custodian

Avery Green—facility@sjlcknox.org

Nursery Attendants

Mary Elizabeth Peterson

Lisa Minton

Kate Higgins Tirro

Church Council

Chris Brooks

cbrookstn40@gmail.com

Linda Godden

tgodden09@comcast.net

Scott Griswold

jscottgriswold@gmail.com

Lisa Jimenez

splack@verizon.net

Jason McLemore

j.r.mclemore@gmail.com

Cindy Merkel

dcmerk1973@gmail.com

Darrell Murrell

cherm1818@gmail.com

Kelly Parman

kellyparman@msn.com

Heather Wallace

heatherbpwallace@yahoo.com

Chris Wise

wisect@tds.net

Ron Wollard

rdw57ord@gmail.com

Stephen Ministry

Beth Buehler

Mari Brooks

Susan Dowling

Amy Figg Ley (Stephen Leader)

amy@sjlcknox.org

Nancy Friedrich

Alice Garrison

Bari Gerbig

Scott Griswold

Clarke Hinkle

Michael Holtz (Stephen Leader)

michael@michaelholtzonline.com

Debby Jones

Pat Krogmann (Stephen Leader)

boomboomgolfpk@gmail.com

Nicki Nye

Margareth Olsson

Mary Rimer

Valerie Taylor

Chris Wise

PREPARING OUR HEARTS

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP THEME

The fifth Sunday after Epiphany continues to highlight unlikely instruments and circumstances appointed to reveal God's glory. "Who will go for us?" God asks. A person of unclean lips, a former persecutor of the church of God, and three fishermen who couldn't catch a thing. More surprising still, perhaps, is that we are also called.

PRELUDE

9:00 AM

Acolyte:

Josie Whitehead

Lector:

Dennis Ruck

Communion

Assistant:

Ann Rita Ditmore

Dresden Ley

Usher:

Debbie Sweany

Dave Sweany

AIV:

Brennan Whitehead

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG ELW 876

"Let the Whole of Creation Cry"

1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"
2 Ser - vants striv - ing for the Lord, proph - ets burn - ing with the word,
3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,

11:00 AM
Acolyte:
Kayleigh Brownlee

Lector:

Jamie Wallace

Communion

Assistant:

Laura Trout

Valerie Taylor

Usher:

Kris Hepler

AIV:

Ryan Tate

Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might - y king!"
those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song,
and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;

Altar Guild:

Before:

Toni Wise

Between:

Laura Trout

After:

Cindy Merkel

Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;
Pow'rs of knowl - edge and of law, to the glo - rious cir - cle draw;
from the north to south - ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:

sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.
all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"
"Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our creator,
our protector,
our wellspring of life.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us
confess our sin.

(Please stand in body or spirit. Silence is for reflection and self-examination.)

P: Merciful God,

C: you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

**Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;**

we assume the worst about one another.

**Cleanse us from our faults
and release us from their grasp.**

Show us your lovingkindness.

**Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways.**

Amen.

P: God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In † Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,

live anew as beloved children of God.

C: Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

(Please stand in body or spirit.)

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud”



1 Source and Sove-reign, Rock and Cloud, For - tress Foun - tain, Shel - ter, Light,
2 Word and Wis - dom, Root and Vine, Shep - herd, Sa - vior, Ser - vant, Lamb,
3 Storm and Still - ness, Breath and Dove, Thun - der, Tem - pest, Whirl-wind, Fire,



Judge, De - fend - er, Mer - cy, Might, Life whose life all life en-dowed:
Well and Wa - ter, Bread and Wine, Way who leads us to I AM:
Com - fort, Coun - selor, Pre - sence, Love, En - er - gies that ne - ver tire:



May the church at prayer re - call that no sing - le ho - ly name



but the truth that feeds them all is the God whom we pro - claim.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, ©1994 Oxford University Press, Inc.

Tune: John Tirro, ©2023 Mondo Zen Music (johntirro.com)

GREETING

A: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: Most holy God, the earth is filled with your glory, and before you angels and saints stand in awe. Enlarge our vision to see your power at work in the world, and by your grace make us heralds of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

*This prayer concerns
the theme of the day
and prepares us for
hearing the readings
from scripture.*

*In the First Lesson:
Through a vision in the
temple, the eighth-
century prophet Isaiah is
called by God to
announce judgment
against Israel. Aware of
his sinfulness and
shortcomings, Isaiah is
initially hesitant. But
when God calls, Isaiah
responds, "Here am I;
send me!"*

(Please be seated.)

FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 6:1-8 [9-13]

¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ² Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴ The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷ The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!” [⁹ And he said, “Go and say to this people:

‘Keep listening, but do not comprehend;
keep looking, but do not understand.’

¹⁰ Make the mind of this people dull,
and stop their ears, and shut their eyes,
so that they may not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and comprehend with their minds,
and turn and be healed.”

¹¹ Then I said, “How long, O Lord?” And he said:

“Until cities lie waste without inhabitant,
and houses without people, and the land is utterly desolate;

¹² until the LORD sends everyone far away,
and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land.

¹³ Even if a tenth part remain in it, it will be burned again,
like a terebinth or an oak

whose stump remains standing when it is felled.” The holy seed is its stump.]

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*In Second Lesson:
Paul delivers in a
nutshell the story of the
gospel that was given to
him. In the lineage of
the Christian faith, we
have received the good
news of God’s love from
generations of believers
before us, and we
continue to tell this
story to the world.*

THE SECOND LESSON

I CORINTHIANS 15:1-11

¹ Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ² through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³ For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴ and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

P: The Word of the Lord.

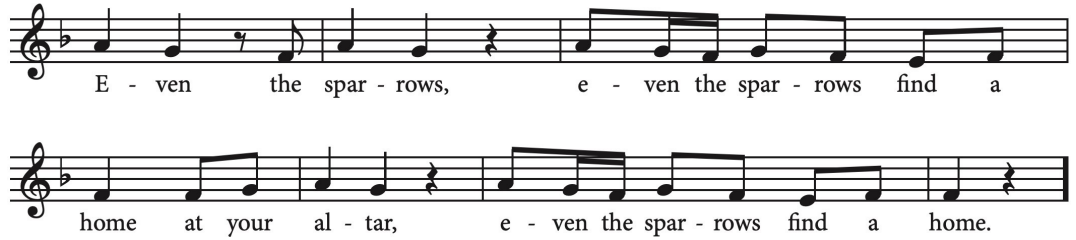
C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand in body or spirit.)

GOSPEL VERSE

"Even the Sparrows"

Refrain (All)



Cantor:

Blessed are they whose strength is you, whose hearts are the highways of Zion.
As they go through the dry, dry land, they make it a place of springs.
They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

Refrain

Cantor:

Better to be one who waits outside the house of the Lord my God
than live in tents of wickedness, better to wait outside.

Refrain

Text: John Tirro

Tune: John Tirro

©2014 Mondo Zen Music, resources and licensing at johntirro.com.

In the Gospel Lesson: Jesus' teaching of God's word has begun to draw great crowds. For Simon, James, and John, Jesus' teaching inspires hospitality, then obedience, and then risk. After Jesus' creative power is revealed, fear and amazement leads these three fishermen to leave everything behind to become apostles.

HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 5:1-11

¹ Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ² he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." ⁶ When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." ¹¹ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please be seated.)

MEDITATION

The meditation interprets the meaning of God's word for our lives today.

REV. AMY FIGG LEY

We sing this principal hymn in response to the Word which has been proclaimed to us.

(Please stand in body or spirit.)

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 574

"Here I Am, Lord"



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946
Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte
Text and music © 1981 OCP Publications, Inc., 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

We respond to God's almighty acts as we confess our faith in the Words of the Creed.

APOSTLES' CREED ELW p. 127

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

This reference to the holy catholic church is to the church universal.

With this prayer, we express our concern for the whole Church, for the nations of the world, for people in their various needs, and for our own congregation.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

(Please kneel in body or spirit. Following each petition, respond with "hear our prayer.")

A: God of surprising abundance, you call your people to enter deeply into the world. Equip us to respond to your call, gather up what we have, and offer it to all. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of creation, provide protection from the elements and other hazards to all whose work brings them outside: for fishers, ranchers, line workers, and construction crews. Guide us to live carefully alongside the wonders of the land and waters. God of grace,

A: Open the hearts of all leaders, especially those who serve in the armed forces, that they respond to their commission with wisdom and patience. Ensure that all who serve are kept safe in body, mind, and spirit. We pray for an end to all war and armed conflict. God of grace,

A: Fill with your compassionate presence all who are suffering from addiction, mental illness, injury, or illness of any kind. Draw helpers to their side so that they find relief from their burdens. God of grace,

A: Call our faith communities to do marvelous things. Bless the labor and efforts of this congregation, that we may be a sign of your presence in the world. God of grace,

A: We thank you for those who have courageously gone before us in the faith. May we too show a deep trust in you throughout our lives. God of grace,

A: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

C: Amen.

Those Remembered in Prayer:

*Michael Adams, David & Linda Cash, Pat & Charlsie Counts,
Hugh Denton, Al Gill, Lynda Hinkle, Dick Krogmann,
Don McWilliams, Nicki Nye, Nancy O'Callaghan,
Norma Peterson, Don Ray, Frances Ratliff, Pam Shealy, Keith Solt,
Barbara Teague, Whitney Trujillo, Tom Wainner, Linda Welch,
Maxine Whistler, Bill Wing, Toni Wise, Ron & Jeanette Woodward,
our seminarians: Jordan Baker, Caitlyne Fox, and Joe Ley,
the students, staff, & mentors at Christenberry Elementary school,
synod partners in Guatemala, and all those affected by the devastation of Hurricane Helene*

Completed Life

Don Hansen

SHARING THE EUCHARIST

(Please stand in body or spirit.)

SHARING OF THE LORD'S PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

(Please be seated.)

OFFERING & SIGNING OF THE PEW REGISTER

OFFERTORY MUSIC

“Set Me As A Seal”

-Rene Claussen

(Please stand in body or spirit.)

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

We respond to God's
Word by giving our
offerings for God's work
in the world. In our
offerings to God, we give
all that we are and have:
ourselves, our abilities,
and our possessions,
together with the
bread—a sign of our toil,
labor, and human
existence—and the
wine—a sign of the joy
and delights of life.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and

take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un-to me the

joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12

Music: FRANCKE, J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739, arr. Harold W. Gilbert

Arr. © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress

The offertory prayer reminds us that God is the source of all gifts.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
C: and your abundance to the depths of the seas.
Bless what we offer to your service:
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,
now and always.
Amen.

The Presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you! And al-so with you! Lift up your hearts! We lift them to the Lord!
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God! It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Text: *The Book of Common Prayer*
Tune: John Tirro
© 2003 Mondo Zen Music (ASCAP). CCLI #5673458. Used by permission (contact johntirro@mac.com).

The words Jesus used in instituting the Lord's Supper remind us of God's wonderful works, invite us to receive the sacrament, and ask for the Holy Spirit to bless us.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night He was be-trayed, He took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
"Take and eat. This is my bo-dy, gi-ven for you. Take and eat. This is my bo-dy,
gi-ven for you. Do this for the re-mem - brance of me."
On the night He was be-trayed He took the cup, gave thanks, and raised it up:
"Take and drink. This is my blood, poured out for you. Take and drink. This is my blood,
poured out for you. Do this for the re-mem - brance of me."

Text: *1 Corinthians 11:22-25, Matthew 26:27*, adapt. John Tirro
Tune: John Tirro
©2003 Mondo Zen Music (ASCAP). CCLI #5673465. Used by permission (contact johntirro@mac.com).

This prayer is based on
Matthew 6:9-13 and
Luke 11:24.

LORD'S PRAYER



Our Fa-ther, who art in hea-ven, hal-lo-wed be Thy
name. Thy king-dom come; Thy will be done on
earth as it is in hea-ven. Give us this day our dai-ly
bread, and for-give us as we for-give our debt-ors; and
lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion, but de-li-ver us from
e-vil; for Thine is the king-dom and the po-wer and the
glo-ry, for-e-ver. A-men.

(Please be seated.)

COMMUNION

Regarding the gift of Holy Communion, all are welcome! This is God's table, and there is a place for each of God's beloved. Gluten-free wafers are in the small silver box on the baptismal font.

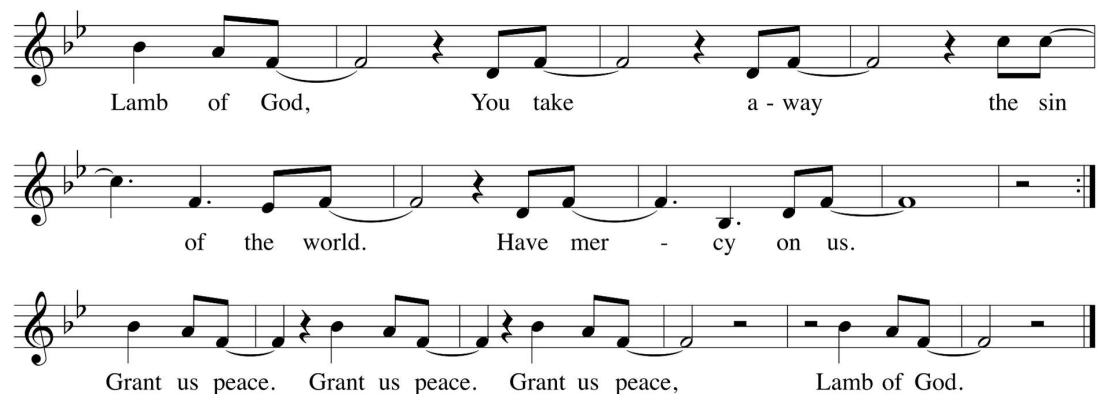
An usher will direct you down the center aisle to the chancel stairs where you may:

- Receive Holy Communion by intinction, taking the bread, dipping it in the wine, and consuming them together
- Receive Holy Communion by the common cup, first eating the bread and then drinking from the silver chalice
- Receive a blessing by placing your hands across your chest and embracing God's love for you

You will return to your seat by the side aisle.

Again, all are welcome at God's table; come and see that the Lord is good.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin
of the world. Have mer-cy on us.
Grant us peace. Grant us peace. Grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Tune: John Tirro

©2003 Mondo Zen Music (ASCAP). CCLI #5673472. Used by permission (contact johntirro@mac.com).

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,
 2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,
 3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

Refrain

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
 you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."
 and if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: BALM IN GILEAD, African American spiritual

The blessing prepares us to continue our mission as Christian people in the world. The Sign of the Cross may be made by all as a reminder of Christ in whose name we are baptized and live.

(Please stand in body or spirit.)

BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

The benediction imparts God's blessing upon God's people at the close of a service.

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE

CLOSING HYMN

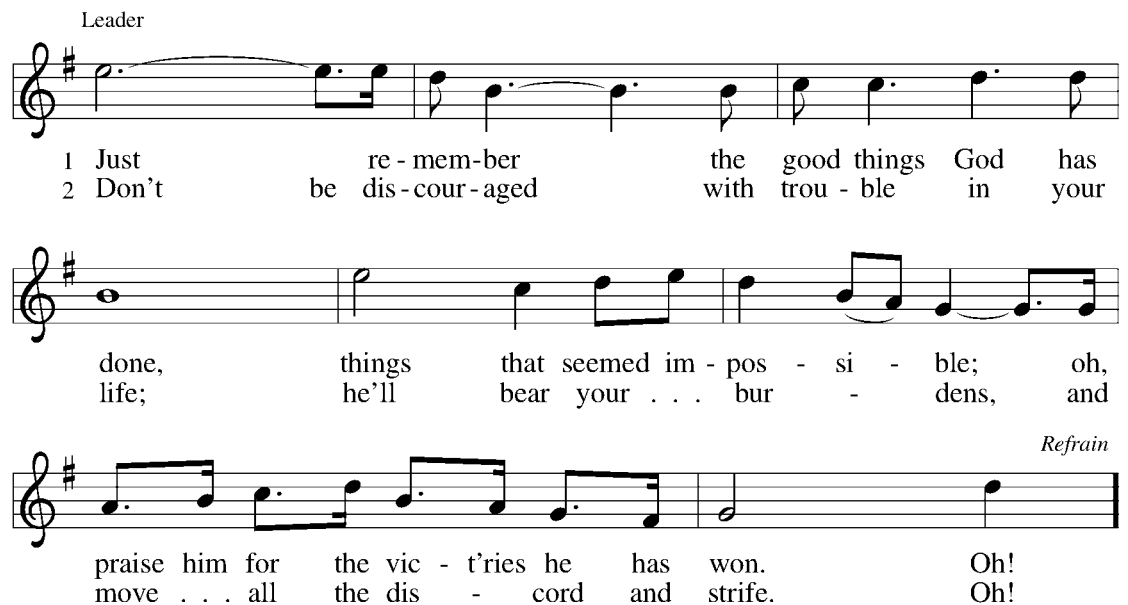
"We've Come This Far by Faith"

Refrain - All



We've come this far by faith, lean-ing on the Lord;
trust-ing in his ho-ly word, he's nev-er failed us yet.
Oh, can't turn a-round, we've come this far by
faith. We've come this far by faith.

Leader



1 Just re-mem-ber the good things God has
2 Don't be dis-cour-aged with trou-ble in your
done, things that seemed im-pos-si-ble; oh,
life; he'll bear your . . . bur-dens, and
Refrain
praise him for the vic-t'ries he has won. Oh!
move . . . all the dis-cord and strife. Oh!

Text: Albert A. Goodson, 1933–2003
Music: THIS FAR BY FAITH, Albert A. Goodson
Text and music © 1965, ren. 1993 Manna Music, Inc., 35255 Brooten Road, Pacific City OR 97135 (ASCAP).
All rights reserved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE SJLC MINUTE

February 2025

SJLC CALENDAR

- Feb. 5th Sunday after Epiphany**
 *Nursery
 *Children ... Music, Lesson, Snack, and Craft
 *Youth ... Games and Spiritual Gains
 *Parents ... Coffee and Conversation
 *Adults ... Bible Study of The Gospel of Luke
- Feb. 9 Staff Meeting**
10 APATT Homeless Feeding Ministry
- Feb. 11 Knoxville Deanery Gathering for Pastors**
Finance Team Meeting
- Feb. 12 Celebration of Life for Janet Klein**
Reception
- Feb. 13 W.I.N.E. Meeting**
Highways and Byways
Feeding Ministry
- Feb. 16th Sunday after Epiphany**
 *Nursery
 *Children ... Music, Lesson, Snack, and Craft
 *Youth ... Games and Spiritual Gains
 *Parents ... Coffee and Conversation
 *Adults ... Bible Study of The Gospel of Luke

UPCOMING Events

- March 4**
 Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner
 5:00—7:00 PM
- March 5**
 Ash Wednesday
 12:00 Noon Worship
 5:30 PM Dinner by TLC
 6:30 PM Worship
- March 12**
 Lenten Midweek Worship
 5:30 PM Dinner by TLC
 6:30 PM Worship



Why Does Faith Formation Matter?

This February, we're shining a spotlight on Faith Formation, exploring how we grow together in faith as families and a church community. This special focus highlights ways to nurture faith at every stage of life, especially for our children, youth, and families.

Here's what's coming up:

- This Sunday, February 9th: A Sunday School highlight!** Children are invited to join a Teacher Appreciation Parade following the first service as they make their way to class.
- Next Sunday, February 16th: Reintroducing Stepping Stones of Faith,** a beautiful opportunity for families to embrace the promises of baptism. Pre-schoolers and their families will be featured as we kick off the Stepping Stone Celebrations.
- Sunday, February 23rd: Wrapping up with the launch of our new Faith Formation Handbook** and an invitation to pledge your time, talents, and treasures to support this vital ministry.

Let's continue building a strong foundation of faith together!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

TODAY at 10:10 in the Fellowship Hall, we'll continue our look at the Gospel of Luke. This past Sunday, the Gospel reading about Simeon and Anna in the temple was the subject of our discussion the week before in our gathering, so we were ahead of the game! I expect we'll have some more overlap between our sessions and the gospel readings over the next couple of months.

For this Sunday, we'll focus on Luke 4: 14-30. Look at it ahead of time if you get a chance. Those who picked up books in our previous meeting can read Session 3, pp. 19-25, which explores the passage from different angles. I still have some copies for those of you who would like a copy of the learner guide.

As usual, we'll have table discussions, and everyone is welcome, whether or not you read the chapter and verses ahead of time. Coffee and some sweets will be available to accompany our explorations.



W.I.N.E. MEETING

Please join us on Thursday, February 13th to celebrate our WINE GALENTINES! We will meet in our usual spot at SJLC at 6:30pm. This month we will share some scriptures of LOVE—please bring one to share if you have a special one in mind. If anyone has anything to add or other ideas, please reach out! See you gals soon!



**WORD ABOUT WORSHIP
FROM PASTOR JOHN:
WEEKS AFTER EPIPHANY**

EPIPHANY

The weeks after Epiphany (Jan 12 - Mar 2) focus on who Jesus is and what it means for who we are as the church and as believers. It's a key set of teachings for building faith.

Sermon on the Plain (Feb 16) — Luke is all about making the high low and the low high, to the point that his version of the Sermon on the Mount is on a plain! Jesus blesses the poor, hungry, sad, and excluded, and he curses the rich, full, laughing, and well-regarded. What would it be like, to see as he sees?

PLEASE JOIN US AT 9:00 AND 11:00 AM!

B.E.E.R. IS BACK!

After a couple month pause, B.E.E.R. (Brothers Engaged in Enriching Relationships) will meet at Schulz Brau at 126 Bernard Ave. (very close to St. John's) on Tuesday, February 25 at 6:00. So come and grab a bite, a brew or other beverage, and share some stories from your Christmas / New Year's break. Schulz Brau also serves non-alcoholic beverages so there should be something for everyone. Contact Garry Menendez menendez@utk.edu or Matt Whitehead mattwhitehead@gmail.com if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!



After a couple month pause, B.E.E.R. (Brothers Engaged in Enriching Relationships) will meet at Schulz Brau at 126 Bernard Ave. (very close to St. John's) on Tuesday, February 25 at 6:00. So come and grab a bite, a brew or other beverage, and share some stories from your Christmas / New Year's break. Schulz Brau also serves non-alcoholic beverages so there should be something for everyone. Contact Garry Menendez menendez@utk.edu or Matt Whitehead mattwhitehead@gmail.com if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!

**L
E
A
D
E
R
S
H
I
P
S
U
M
M
I
T**

Amy is a therapist, spiritual director, coach, retreat leader, and writer in Columbia, SC. She works primarily with clergy, seminarians, couples, and individuals. Her first book, *Moment to Moment*, was named a top spirituality book in 2013, and she's earned six national Polly Bond awards. Amy co-authors a blog at messymarvelous.com and has published *Launch: A Guide to Adulthood and Love: A Guide to Life Partnering*. She teaches in the spiritual direction program at Lutheran Southern Theological Seminary.

Amy writes: The waters we are all swimming in are rife with anxiety. Every institution, to include churches and religion, are rapidly deconstructing and reconstructing. On every level of our lives, most of us are spending energy either resisting or succumbing to these changes and this anxiety. And yet, as leaders in the church and in the community of Christ, we are challenged to stay centered, to not be anxious, and to lead from a place of integrity, grounded in our faith to a God who is love, a God who is trustworthy, a God who exists in community. How do we do this?

This workshop is designed for leaders who want to explore the dynamics of healthy, effective leadership in today's world. We will explore the necessary contemplative nature of leadership and the importance of clarifying individual and community values. We will also discuss a process that leads to real and lasting change, and we will learn to identify where we are in that process and where others are as well. And we will have some fun!

"Perhaps you were created for such a time as this," Esther's uncle Mordecai says to her as she is discerning whether to stand up to the king, her husband, and save her people. (Esther 4:14) Perhaps we are, each of us, created for just this time. Come and learn, come and share, come and be encouraged to use your leadership gifts and skills to further the kingdom of God right in the St. John's community.



Join us for a transformative two-day Leadership Summit featuring Amy as she shares wisdom and guidance to inspire and equip our church community!

**Leadership In The
Community of Christ**

February 28 and March 1