



WELCOME TO THIS
WORSHIP CELEBRA-
TION of the living
Christ's presence in
our midst. Christ
comes to us with new
life and strength for
Christian living in
daily life through the
hearing of the Word,
preaching, prayer,
song, and community.

*As the Confession and
Forgiveness begins, all
may make the sign of
the cross, the sign that
is marked at baptism.*

*Congregational re-
sponses are in bold*

** Asterisks through-
out the order of
worship indicate
the people stand-
ing, in body and/or
in spirit.*

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Terry Blaney, reader

PRELUDE "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

Lemmel/arr. Sorenson

Rodney Powers, piano

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of
Earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His Glory and Grace.*

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection

Leader: Compassionate God.

People: **we confess to you all our sins.**

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

Leader: Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."
In the name of God,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love.

People: **Amen.**

*GATHERING SONG “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

Hymn 886

Verses 1-4



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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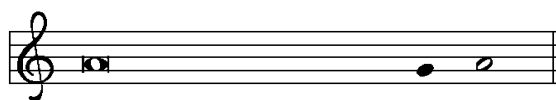
*GREETING

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

People: And also with you.

"Kyrie" is a Greek word meaning "Lord." In Christian liturgy, particularly in Kyrie Eleison, it's used as a plea for God's mercy. The full phrase, "Kyrie eleison," translates to "Lord, have mercy," and has a common element in various Christian worship services since the 4th century.

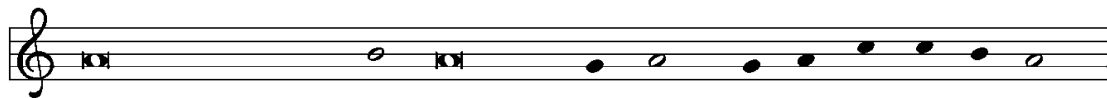
*KYRIE



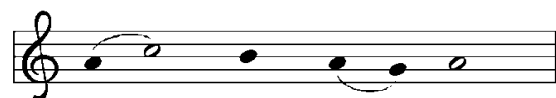
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



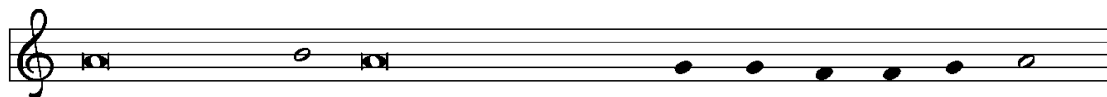
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Leader: God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: **Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC “My Jesus I Love Thee”

Gordon/arr. Forrest

Oskar Johnson-Liu, cello; Rodney Powers, piano

WORD

Terry Blaney, reader

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Old Testament 645

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God’s imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

¹ Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,

all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 67

Let all the peoples praise you, O God. (Ps. 67:3)

Leader: ¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

People: ² **Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

Leader: ³ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

People: ⁴ **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the
nations on earth.**

Leader: ⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

People: ⁶ **The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.**

Leader: ⁷ May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

New Testament page 140

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

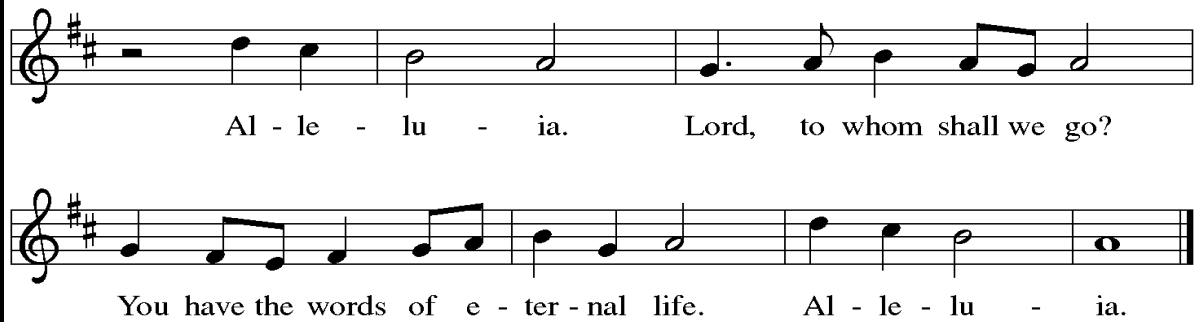
[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL: Matthew 15:10-20, 21-28

New Testament 15

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

Leader: The Gospel according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³ He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶ Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting

after us.”²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.”²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.”²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Tom Nichols, Guest Preacher

*HYMN OF THE DAY “In Christ There Is No East or West”

Hymn 650



1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - 'ry - where their high com - mu - nion find;
3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what - e'er your race may be.
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser - vice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man-kind.
All chil-dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852–1941, alt.

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949

*APOSTLES' CREED

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.

Today's Altar Flowers are given by Cheryl Liebgott "in loving memory of my wonderful marriage to Frank." The second vase is given by Argerie Martin's children in honor of her 92nd birthday: "Mom, thank you for loving us, teaching us, and praying for us every day. May God bless you today and always, DS&P."

The August Eternal Candle was donated by Cheryl Liebgott "to thank God for all his blessings."

That Christ visited the dead after his crucifixion is based on 1 Peter 4:6 "For this is the reason the gospel was proclaimed even to the dead, so that, though they had been judged in the flesh as everyone is judged, they might live in the spirit as God does."

In the Apostles' Creed, the phrase "holy catholic Church" refers to the universal Christian church, not exclusively the Roman Catholic Church. It signifies the belief in a single, unified body of believers across time and space, united by their shared faith in Christ.

**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.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

(In between the petitions of the prayers, the following response is offered.)

Leader: Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

(Final petition and response.)

Leader: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

MEAL

***DIALOGUE**

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.

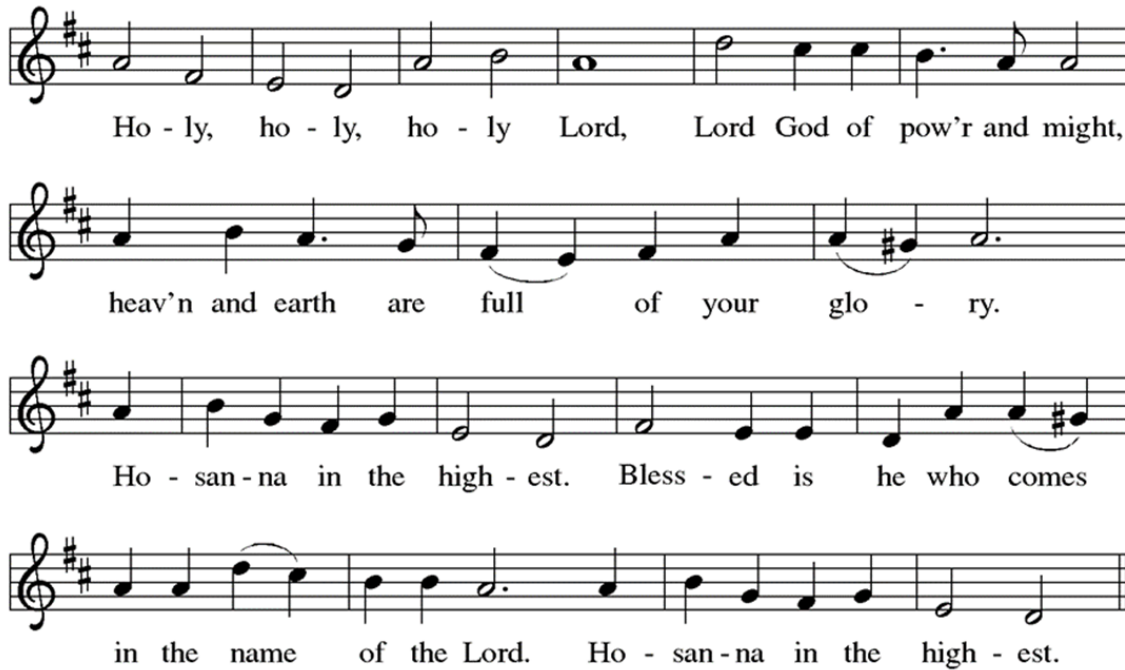
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...

We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

During Pentecost there is Holy Communion on the first and third of each month. All who are seeking Christ and his grace are welcome at our communion table.

*Today, we will receive Communion by **intinction** (dipping the bread into the wine or juice). Here is the process:*

Approach: Please follow the direction of the ushers to come forward via the center aisle.

Receive the Bread: Extend your hands to receive a piece of bread or a wafer from the minister.

Dip: Hold the bread carefully and dip a portion into the chalice.

Consume: Place the intincted bread directly into your mouth and reverently return to your seat by the side aisles.

Note: If you prefer a gluten-free option or a blessing instead, please let the minister know as you approach.

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COMMUNION SONG “Lamb of God”

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Compassionate God,
People: through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING

*PASTORAL BLESSING

Leader: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.
People: Amen

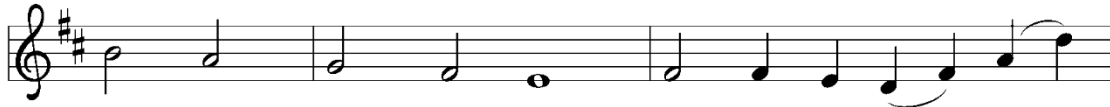
*SENDING SONG “Jesus Shall Reign”

Hymn 434

Verses 1-4



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Beethoven/arr. Bennett

Rodney Powers, piano

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, August 16	9:00 am Worship 10:00 am SING THE FAITH Rehearsal 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:20 am Adult Discipleship Class
Monday, August 17	6:30 pm <i>Mahjong</i>
Tuesday, August 18	2:00 pm Outreach Ministry
Wednesday, August 19	8:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
Thursday, August 20	
Friday, August 21	
Saturday, August 22	

Italics indicate outside group

PASTOR SCHEIB OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

MESSIAH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday-9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Closed for lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 pm

Wednesday-8:30 am to 11:30 am

Friday-Closed

ONLINE GIVING

Please consider making a one-time or recurring gift to Messiah using the secure online portal at the website (messiahsi.org) and clicking on the Give tab. Another option to reach the portal is to scan this QR code using your smartphone's QR reader. This link may be used for paying for altar flowers and other church-related activities. Questions? Contact the Church Office.



If you would like to give the old-fashioned way, the offering plate is on the table as you exit the Sanctuary.



THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Ministers	The People of Messiah
Pastor	Jason Talsness
Pastor, Congregational Care	Karen Scheib
Director, Faith Formation	Ken Ritz
Pastor Emeritus	James Peper
Presiding Bishop ELCA	Yehiel Curry
Bishop, SE Synod ELCA	Kevin Strickland
Director of Music & Organist	Shirley Newhart
Choral Director	Rodney Powers
Altar Guild	Janet Reardon
Reader	Terry Blaney
Communion Assistants	Bonnie LaPread, Ken Mitchell, Jim Ross
Evangelism Greeters	Karin & Jimmy Viglione
Ushers	Terry Blaney & Kathy Ritz
Audio Visual	Steve Allen and Ken McLauchlan
Coffee Hour	Pam Allen (host) TBD (treats)

MILESTONES THIS WEEK

Birthdays: Argerie Martin 8/17; Tammy Quirk 8/18; Alexandra Talsness 8/18

Anniversaries: Fred & Carol Kuhn 8/17

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME OUR GUEST PREACHER

Tom Nichols is a retired United Methodist Minister who grew up in the Savannah area. After receiving his bachelor's degree from Armstrong State College and his Master of Divinity degree, Tom served parishes in Southwest Georgia before entering the Navy as Chaplain, serving twenty-two years on active duty. Chosen to attend graduate school, he received the Master of Theology Degree from Emory University. As Director of Religious Ministries for Navy Region Southeast, his position included the ministry programs and staffing during the establishment of the U.S. Detention Facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He retired in 2004 and returned to ministry in Georgia, finishing out fifty total years of pastoral ministry while serving on the Staff of Skidaway Island United Methodist Church. Tom is on the Board of the Savannah Navy League and serves as the SNL Chaplain.

Tom was married to Jo Ann Nichols for nearly 57 years before she passed away in March of 2026. He has three children, eight grandchildren and one great grandchild.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Bonnie LaPread and Lynn McLauchlan will be co-facilitating the Monday morning women's Bible study beginning on Monday, September 14, at 10:00 am.

All returning and new members who wish to join the Fall study should email Lynn McLauchlan. Please respond promptly so we can order and receive the books by our start date.

Additionally, please look for the sign-up sheet on the Narthex Kiosk to select from three available topics. A brief summary of each topic will be listed there.

Contact Information:

- Bonnie LaPread (912-659-0452; blapread@yahoo.com)
- Lynn McLauchlan (410-353-9795; Lynnmcl5@gmail.com).

OUTREACH MINISTRY 2026 Build-a-Bed Event Save the Date

This year's **Build-a-Bed** event to benefit **Sleep in Heavenly Peace** will take place on **Saturday, October 3, from 8:00 a.m. to noon.**

Join us for a morning of fellowship and service as we work together to build beds—and hope—for children in our community. Breakfast will be served, and water will be provided.

If you plan to participate, please register in advance using the QR Code.



END OF SUMMER FIESTA

Friday, September 4, 6:00 pm in Peper Hall

Welcome Pastor Talsness back and thank our amazing staff! The Parish Life Ministry is hosting a low-country boil for the celebration. Sign up on the Narthex Kiosk. Invite a friend! Questions? Contact Gayle Denny (513.604.0764).

After today's worship, he will hold the final rehearsal of the summer to practice *Gimme That Old Time Religion* for the August 23rd anthem. The choir director would love to have everyone who will be at worship on August 23rd participate in that final choir. Anyone can join—come to practice and sing next Sunday.

FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

An Invitation

Choir Director Rodney Powers would like to thank the SING THE FAITH choir for their music during worship this summer. It's been a great time singing traditional spirituals, folk songs and spiritual songs.

SERMON PREVIEW

Our Gospel Reading today gives us another example of the struggles the closest disciples of Jesus had in trying to understand his teachings. So often they would ask him to explain what he was saying and doing, whether it was a parable, an encounter he had with people outside the circle of the faith, and even his announcement of his pending death. Perhaps their confusion can help us understand that, maybe we also don't always understand the ways of Our Lord.

CHURCH COUNCIL 2026

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skidawaypastorj@gmail.com

Vacant

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Claire Cornwell-Williams (2028)

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Greg Stinson (2026/2027)¹

Staff Support/Mutual Ministry

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Parker Pearson (no term)

Treasurer

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Pat Cooper (2027)

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912.508.4250

cooperpat5@gmail.com

¹ Greg Stinson is serving the second year of a three-year term that ends in 2027.

² George Lawrence is serving the first year of a three-year term that ends in 2028.

