



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

Steve Derr, reader

PRELUDE "When Morning Gilds the Skies"

arr. Wood

Shirley Newhart, organ

*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 “You Servants of God”

Hymn 825



1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim, and pub - lish a -
2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save, yet still he is
3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -
4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right, all glo - ry and



broad his won - der - ful name; the name, all - vic - to - rious, of
nigh, his pres - ence we have. The great con - gre - ga - tion his
loud and hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus the
pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless - ing, with



Je - sus ex - tol; his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all!
tri - umph shall sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our king!
an - gels pro - claim, fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
an - gels a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fin - ite love!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: LYONS, attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737–1806

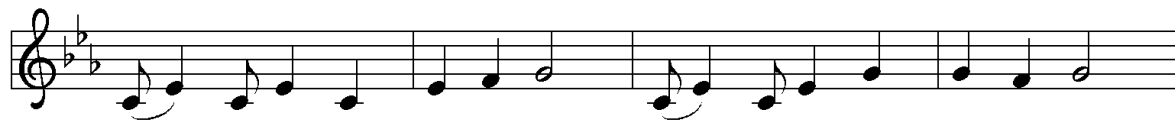
*GREETING

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

Please sing the verses in Greek. [KEE-ree-ay eh-LAY-ee-son (Lord have mercy) and KREE-stay eh-LAY-ee-son (Christ have mercy)].



1, 3	Ky - ri - e	e - le - i - son.	Ky - ri - e	e - le - i - son.
2	Chris - te	e - le - i - son.	Chris - te	e - le - i - son.
1, 3	Lord, ...	have mer - cy.	Lord, ...	have mer - cy.
2	Christ, ...	have mer - cy.	Christ, ...	have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e	e - le - i - son.	Ky - ri - e	e - le - i - son.
Chris - te	e - le - i - son.	Chris - te	e - le - i - son.
Lord, ...	have mer - cy.	Lord, ...	have mer - cy.
Christ, . . .	have mer - cy.	Christ, . . .	have mer - cy.

Music: Dinah Reindorf, b. c. 1927
Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

ANTHEM "Sing a New Song to the Lord"

Smith/Wilson

Chancel Choir

*Sing a new song to the Lord. He to whom wonders belong!
Rejoice in his triumph and tell of his power. O sing to the Lord a new song!
Now to the ends of the earth. See his salvation is shown!
And still he remembers his mercy and truth. Unchanging in love to his own.*

*Sing a new song and rejoice, publish his praises abroad!
Let voices in chorus, with trumpet horn, resound for the joy of the Lord!
Join with the hills and the sea, thunders of praise to prolong!
In judgment and justice he comes to the earth. O sing to the Lord a new song!*

WORD

Steve Derr, reader

FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

Old Testament 634

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

- ¹ Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:
- ² I will go before you
and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;
- ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
- ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name;
I give you a title, though you do not know me.
- ⁵ I am the Lord, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
- ⁷ I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the Lord do all these things.

The reading of Scripture is the time that God makes known his will: God desires mercy and salvation.

Ultimately, this word points us to the Word, the incarnate Son of God.

Through Christ — God's only Son — are we able to know the Father's favor and grace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 96:1-9

Ascribe to the Lord honor and power. (Ps. 96:7)

Leader: ¹ Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**People: ² Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

Leader: ³ Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

**People: ⁴ For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

Leader: ⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.

**People: ⁶ Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

Leader: ⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

**People: ⁸ Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.**

Leader: ⁹ Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

New Testament page 179

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has

chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22**

New Testament page 21

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

Leader: The Gospel according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

*Today's Altar Flowers
are given by Susan &
Ron Whitaker "in
honor of Ron's birth-
day," and by Kay
Yablecki "in celebra-
tion of Fall birth-
days."*

*Lynn & Ken McLau-
chlan donated the Oc-
tober Eternal Candle
"for the glory of God."*

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" ²¹ They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON "Sorting Out Belonging"

Pastor Jason Talsness

*HYMN OF THE DAY “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Hymn 841



1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.
felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,
yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,



let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;



sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;



fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,



let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

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.

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."

***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.**

**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: Hear us, O God,

People: **Your mercy is great.**

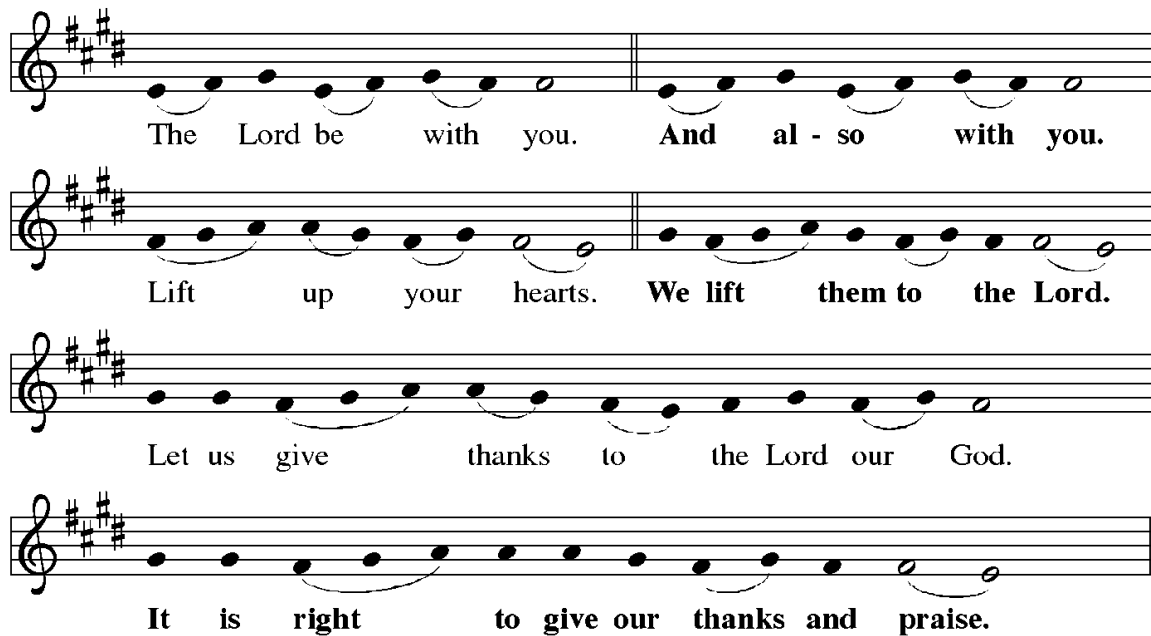
(Final petition and response.)

Leader: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up
these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through 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.

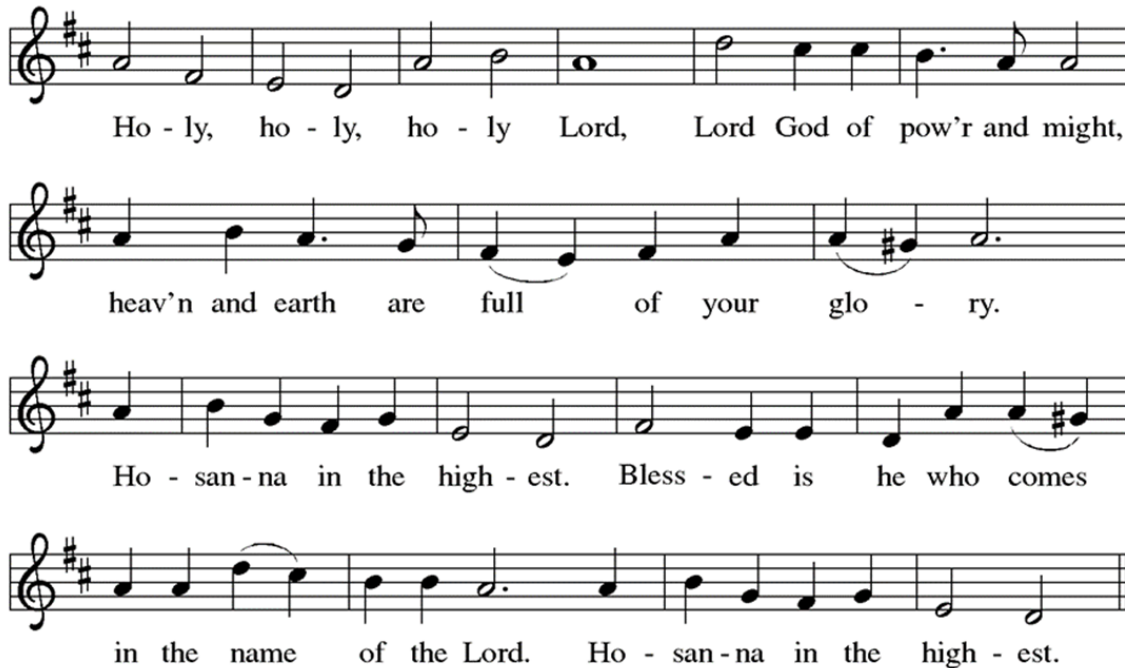
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*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.

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 BENEDICTION

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

People: Amen

*SENDING SONG “God of Grace and God of Glory”

Hymn 705



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

PERMISSIONS

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2011 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #37016.

Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVue) Bible. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

New Revised Standard Version Bible (NSRV), copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Holy Bible, New International Version™, NIV™ Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc. Used with permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

*Permission to reprint and
stream music is granted
under ONE LICENSE #A-
729969. All rights
reserved.*

*Permission to reprint and
stream music is granted
under CCLI LICENSES
#20984671 AND
#20984664. All rights
reserved.*

***DISMISSAL**

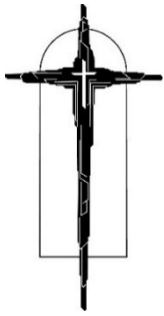
Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE** “God of Grace”

Shirley Newhart, organ

arr. Manz



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, October 18	8:30 am Chancel Choir Warmup 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:20 am Adult Discipleship Class 10:20 am Confirmation Class
Monday, October 19	10:00 am Women's Bible Study
Tuesday, October 20	2:00 pm Outreach Ministry
Wednesday, October 21	8:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9:45 am Mutual Ministry/Staff Evaluation 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, October 22	10:30 am Mutual Ministry/Staff Evaluation 3:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal
Friday, October 23	
Saturday, October 24	

Italics indicate outside group

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	Jane Holst & Kay Yablecki
Reader	Steve Derr
Communion Assistants	Amanda Ridberg & Marcia Stinson
Evangelism Greeters	Peggy Pearson
Ushers	Trish & Rick Tallon
Audio Visual	Steve Allen and Ken McLauchlan
Coffee Hour	Christine Lind (host) TBD (treats)

MILESTONES THIS WEEK

*Birthdays: Michele Derr 10/18; Howard Anderson 10/18; Jimmy Viglione 10/21;
Fayha Polite 10/22; Anne Jeanblanc 10/23*

Anniversaries: Layne & Gary Rabold 10/22

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DON'T BE LEFT OUT OR LEFT BEHIND!

From Peggy Pearson, Chair Education & Discipleship Ministry

RightNow Media—the world's largest streaming library of video Bible study resources—is available to you with the kick-off in two weeks. Just sign up on the Narthex Kiosk, through the Church Office, or by text/telephone to Peggy Pearson (443.995.1146).

Once you are signed up, you will receive an email from *RightNow Media*. Simply click the link in the email, create your free account, and start browsing more than 20,000 inspiring videos.

Forget that phone scrolling and enjoy more inspiration in your life! There is something for everyone, adults, kids, youth! Try it, you just might like it!

MESSIAH READS

Tuesday, October 27, 6:30 pm

The book club's October meeting will be at the home of Joni DiGiorgio (jldigiorgio@aol.com). The featured book is *The Museum of Second Chances* by Jo Leivers.

If you would like to join this group, please contact Patti Small (smallpatricia13@yahoo.com).

ATTENTION COMMUNION ASSISTANTS!

Coordinator Bonnie LaPread has posted a revised signup sheet for Communion Assistants. Rather than signing up for an entire month, there are 2 spaces for each worship service with communion so you can sign up for an individual service. Please take a minute and sign up on the Narthex Kiosk for the remaining services in 2026 (including Christmas Eve).

EMPTY BOWL FUNDRAISER

Sunday, November 1 at Reynolds Square 11:00 am to 1:30 pm

This mission-driven ceramic arts show, and tasting will feature soups prepared by Union Mission's culinary team, along with additional bites from our culinary partners – The Olde Pink House, Collins Quarter, Sentient Bean and Leopold's Ice Cream – and live music by harpist Kristen King. Each attendee may select a handcrafted bowl and branded tote to take home as a reminder of our community's compassion and care.

Following the event, guests are invited to tour the new Emmaus House Resource Center at 127 Fahm Center. The optional tour will begin at 1:30 p.m., and parking will be available. Proceeds will support the Emmaus House Resource Center, which serves more than 200 individuals each day by providing meals, medical care, counseling and case management, workforce development, dignity services, and housing navigation – all in one location.

SERMON PREVIEW

Sorting Out Belonging

No one on this earth enjoys paying taxes. Jesus asks if it is lawful to pay taxes. On the one hand, Caesar is a non-Jewish authority, so to say yes is to risk honoring a pagan presence. On the other, saying one should not pay taxes to Rome for any reason is an affront to empire. Jesus' questioners had laid a political/theological trap.

His answer, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's," has echoed in Christian circles ever since and is preserved in Matthew 22.

But what exactly belongs to Caesar and to God? This Sunday we will explore the sometimes-uneasy relationship between faith and government.

Questions for reflection: Christians are to obey earthly authority, but does that mean obeying it without question? What happens when the demands of government conflict with the demands of personal convictions? Of conscience? How do we live faithfully as both an earthly nation and the kingdom of God?

CHURCH COUNCIL 2026

Jason Talsness, Pastor

(912) 556-8056

skidawaypastorj@gmail.com

Peggy Pearson (2026)

Education & Discipleship Ministry

443.995.1146

parkpear@aol.com

Claire Cornwell-Williams (2028)

President

Evangelism Ministry

912.658.4114

cwilliams17@comcast.net

Vacant

Finance Ministry

Lisa Oswald (2026)

Secretary

Outreach Ministry

203.554.5845

laoswald@icloud.com

Gayle Denny (2026)

Parish Life Ministry

513.604.0764

gdgardener@comcast.net

Rick Tallon (2028)

Property Ministry

417.294.2002

rick.tallon@gmail.com

Greg Stinson (2026/2027)¹

Staff Support/Mutual Ministry

912.704.4084

gtstinson@comcast.net

George Lawrence (2026/2028)²

Stewardship Ministry

912.484.2818

mppggl13@gmail.com

Parker Pearson (no term)

Treasurer

410.349.7704

parkpear@aol.com

Pat Cooper (2027)

Worship & Music Ministry

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.

