

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

4500 EAST HAMPDEN AVENUE | CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE, CO 80113

WWW.BETHANY-DENVER.ORG | 303.758.2820



Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday May 3rd, 2026
Traditional 8:30am Service



Day Camp at Bethany!

June 22-26

Registration is now OPEN!

Pre School: 9am-12pm - \$90

Elementary: 9am-2pm - \$120

Helpers (6th grade - adult) are invited to join in the fun!

Scholarships are available!

Registration fee includes a camp t-shirt.

If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Debra at debra@bethany-denver.org



Reserve your spots now!

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

Charles Callahan

WELCOME

To fill out your digital connection card, go to www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect.

Pastor Gary Sandberg



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained ministry of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

You are invited to face the cross as it enters.



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

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GREETING

Pastor Gary Sandberg

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

And also with you.

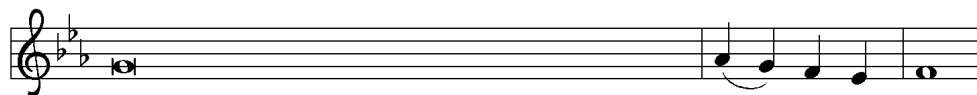
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



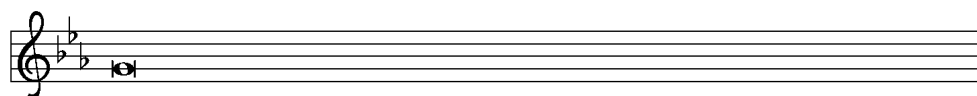
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



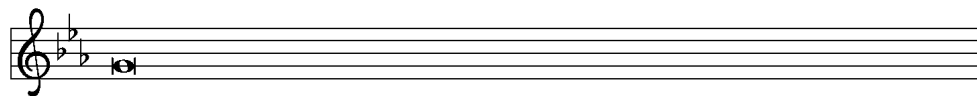
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain




This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.




Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



Refrain
hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



Refrain
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Leslie Stevenson

Dear Lord, may the scriptures we read today ground us in the joy of the resurrection, that we might grow in God's grace. May we find opportunity to live out your Gospel message as we share this good news with the world. **Amen.**

LESSON

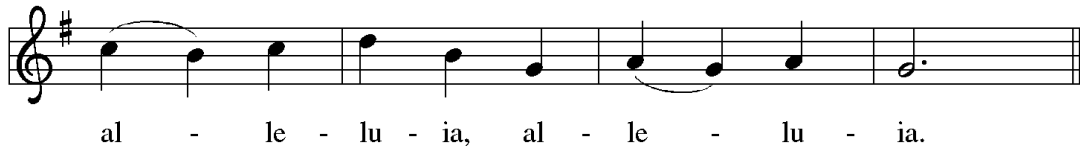
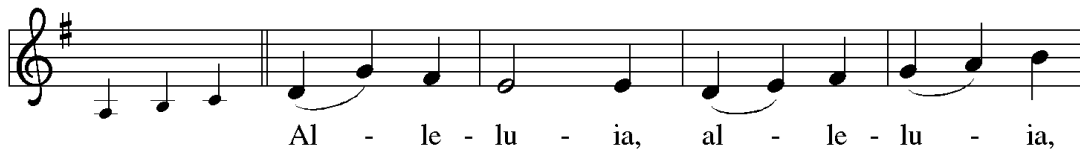
Acts 7:55-60

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Repeat alleluia



GOSPEL

John 14:1-4

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’ ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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

SERMON

Pastor Gary Sandberg

HYMN OF THE DAY

You Are the Way

ELW #758



1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;
 2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
 3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.
 you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
 and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
 that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt.
 Music: DUNDEE, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

APOSTLES' CREED

Janet Mortinsen

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

BLESSING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please share a blessing of peace with others around you. After sharing the Peace, please be seated.

✠ OFFERING ✠

ABUNDANTLY BETHANY

Pastor Gary Sandberg

To fill out your digital connection card, go to www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect.

- ◆ **Bethany Info Sessions:** TODAY - tour of the campus
- ◆ **Diaper Drive:** TODAY and May 10
- ◆ **Summer Launch Cookout!:** Wednesday, May 6
- ◆ **Bethany Spring Outdoor Adventure:** Saturday, May 9

OFFERING

You can give in the following ways; Thank you for your gifts!

- **Today you are invited to bring your offering forward along with your United in Faith intention card**
- On our **website**, find the GIVE button in the header or under the Get Involved tab at **Bethany-Denver.org**
- Through **BethanyConnect (Subsplash)** - Use your phone's camera to scan this **QR Code**
- **Mail** in your check to the office (4500 E. Hampden Ave. Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113)
- Unlock your phone, hold near **NFC card** (on pew back), and wait for the notification to appear



OFFERING MUSIC

I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life

Robert C. Lau

Chancel Choir, dir. Kirk Schjodt

I am the way, the truth, and the life: No man cometh to the Father but by me.

Let not your heart be troubled: Ye believe in God. Believe also in me.

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you.

That where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

✠ MEAL ✠

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Pastor Gary Sandberg

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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 in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

THE 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 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.**

COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

Receive communion by dipping the bread into the wine. Pre-packaged communion sets are alcohol free; gluten-free options are available. Groups are welcome to visit a communion station together. Those who are not receiving communion are invited to cross their arms across their chest to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

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 MUSIC

In My Father's House

Philip W. J. Stopford

Chancel Choir, dir. Kirk Schjodt

*In my Father's house are many dwellings, and if I go to prepare a place for you,
I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.
Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me.
In my Father's house are many dwelling places. If there were not,
would I have told you I am going to prepare a place for you?
Where I am going, you know the way. For I am the way, the truth, and the life;
No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you also know my Father.
My spirit will be with you always. The Advocate, the Spirit of Truth will remind you of all I have said.
Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled;
Do not be afraid. I have told you I will come back to you; have faith in me.*

COMMUNION HYMN

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

ELW #816



1 Come, my way, my truth, my life: such a
2 Come, my light, my feast, my strength: such a
3 Come, my joy, my love, my heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.
length; such a strength as makes his guest.
part; such a heart as joys in love.

Text: George Herbert, 1593–1632

Music: THE CALL, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Outside USA: Music © 1911 Stainer and Bell, Ltd., 23 Gruney Road, London N3 1DZ, UK. www.stainer.co.uk.

TABLE BLESSING

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Bryan Anderson; Erin Blett; Marc Calder; Michele Eckert; Pat & Nicole, Nora, Lily Evans;
Chelsea & Eric, Sylvester Frazier; Katie Johnson, William, Kaia Weinstein;
James & Penelope, James, Jackson Mantay; Bill & Patty Slater; Kurt & Renee, Alexandra, Liam Wolf

✠ SENDING ✠

BENEDICTION

Pastor Gary Sandberg

SENDING HYMN

The Church's One Foundation

ELW #654

You are invited to face the cross as it recesses to the center.



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
Oh, bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900
Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

DISMISSAL

Pastor Gary Sandberg

As we go forth into the week ahead we remember our calling as the people of Bethany.

Together we will:

**Worship and encounter a God who loves us;
Embrace healthy dialogue that promotes unity over division;
Respond to the needs of the world through generosity and action.**

With this as our mission, go in peace, serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Toccata

Lani Smith

Things to Know about - News & Events

- ◆ **Bethany Information Sessions:** New Members will be received **TODAY** at both worship services and a tour of the Bethany campus will be offered at 11:20am - meet in Room 400 downstairs in the Youth Wing.
- ◆ **Diaper Drive:** Bethany is hosting a diaper drive to support Inner City Health and Metro Caring. Please bring your diapers to the Sanctuary **TODAY** and May 10.
- ◆ **Summer Launch Cookout!: Wednesday, May 6, 5:30pm-7:00pm.** Come for good food, bounce houses, games, and a celebration of all the people who served in Faith Formation ministry during the past program year. Plus, learn about all the great programming coming up this summer at Bethany!
- ◆ **Bethany Spring Outdoor Adventure: Saturday, May 9, 10:00am,** Highline Canal Bike Ride or Walk, and Picnic. Join in at Church in the East parking lot. The Highline Canal can be accessed in less than one mile from Church. We'll return 11:30am-12:00pm for a picnic lunch. Join in for all or just the picnic lunch, fellowship and games. Register for the event by Friday, May 8 at <https://tinyurl.com/BLChike>.
- ◆ **Bethany Summer Day Camp Helpers:** There are MANY opportunities to serve! There will be a gathering on **Sunday, May 10** at 11:20am in the Fellowship Hall to learn about all the ways you can help with Day Camp this summer! Our theme will be "Hands Wide Open" and we'll need both adults and youth (ages 6th grade and up) to help with Activities, Snacks, Crafts, Bible Story, Registration and Pre School. Reach out to Debra at debra@bethany-denver.org with any questions. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/DayCamp26>
- ◆ **Jewelry Cleaning:** Bethany member Kyra Morgan from Williams Jewelers will be doing jewelry clean and checks on Mother's Day, **Sunday, May 10.** Bring your jewelry and any questions!
- ◆ **Women of Bethany (WOB) Fellowship:** Potluck Spring luncheon, **Thursday, May 14, 11:00am-1:30pm,** hosted by Susan Sharkey at the Silver Mesa Clubhouse in Highlands Ranch. Sign-up for this event by May 7 at the event on Bethany News. Wear your favorite May Day or Derby hat or fascinator and your prettiest spring outfit. Please bring a dish by last name: A-K vegetable, fruit salad or appetizer, L-P protein dish or appetizer, Q-Z dessert or bread. This gathering is open to ALL women of Bethany. If you have never joined us, please check us out.
- ◆ **Outreach Event:** Volunteers are needed to sort medical supplies at Project CURE on **Wednesday, May 20, 9:00am-12:00pm** at 10377 E. Geddes Ave, Centennial, 80112. Help send hope and health worldwide. Sign up at the event on Bethany News. Contact alyoungdahl@msn.com.
- ◆ **Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp Work Weekend:** Bethany's annual work weekend is **May 29-31.** Spend a beautiful weekend in the mountains preparing the camp for the summer season. This is a great weekend for families since many projects such as landscaping and painting are kid friendly. Lodging and delicious food provided. Bring sleeping gear for cabins and be ready to have lots of fun! Register on the Bethany Connect app or Bethany News on the website. Please contact Susan Pfabe-Wiggans at susanpw4@gmail.com for more information.
- ◆ **Habitat for Humanity Metro Denver/Holy Hammers Volunteers Needed: Saturday, May 30, 8:50am-4:30pm,** Griffith Station Homes, 8407 W 52nd Ave, Arvada, **Saturday, Jun 20, 7:50 am – 3:30 pm** | Griffith Station Homes, New Construction Site | 8407 W 52nd Ave, Arvada. Register to volunteer at <https://vhub.at/HolyHammers>. Contact Kevin Dempsey for questions at kmdmpsy@aol.com.
- ◆ **Day Camp registration: June 22-26.** Children (Pre School through 5th grade) and Helpers (6th grade - adult) are invited to join in the fun! Cost is \$90 for Pre School age children and \$120 for elementary children. Register at the ad for the event on Bethany News on our website.



bethany

LUTHERAN CHURCH

bethany-denver.org

facebook.com/BethanyLutheranChurch

instagram.com/Bethany_Denver

tiktok.com/@bethanydenver

Things to Know about - Worship

- ◆ **Welcome to Bethany!** If you have questions or would like to consider making Bethany your church home, visit our website, Bethany-Denver.org, or stop by the Newcomer Nook after worship. The pastoral team, consisting of Pastor Gary Sandberg (he/him), Pastor Nate Preisinger (he/him), Deacon Debra Alba (she/ her) and Director of Pastoral Care Janet Mortinsen (she/her), is available to speak with you.
- ◆ Bethany Lutheran Church values people of diverse race, sexual identity, ethnicity, and political affiliation. **All are welcome at Bethany Lutheran Church** and this community is enriched because you are here. We are together for good!
- ◆ **Sunday Worship services:** 8:30am Traditional - worship follows traditional Lutheran liturgy.
- ◆ 10:00am Casual Blended- a flow of worship that includes the elements of Lutheran worship with music that spans multiple genres and brings some creative ways to engage the theme of the day. Worship leaders are generally dressed more casually.
- ◆ **Participating in Worship:** There will be times during worship when you are invited to stand, but if it is more comfortable or more meaningful for you to remain seated, please feel free to do so.
- ◆ **Communion Statement:** Everyone gathered for worship is invited to take part in Communion. Jesus did not place any barriers around who received communion and neither does Bethany.
- ◆ **Safety:** Bethany Lutheran Church is committed to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. If at any time you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or have concerns, please speak with one of our staff or designated leaders. We are here to listen and to support you.
- ◆ **Hearing Assistance Device:** Please see the Sound Tech in the A/V booth at the rear of the Sanctuary if you need a hearing assistance device.
- ◆ **Worship Servants:** Thank you to all the A/V team, Ushers, Communion Servers, Altar Guild, Musicians, Embrace Volunteers and Sacristans for your work to greet people and make worship happen. We always welcome Worship Servants - go to www.signupschedule.com/Bethany to sign up!
- ◆ You are welcome to bring beverages into the Sanctuary but please use a covered container. And enjoy your food outside the Sanctuary (although we understand small children may need snacks!).
- ◆ **Children at Bethany:** Children and youth are a blessing from God and we love having children in the Sanctuary! Additionally, we offer several options for children and families to feel comfortable in a variety of spaces on Sunday mornings:
 - ⇒ **Fidget Station:** We know that all of God's children (young and old) are wonderfully and fearfully made in the image of God. And, at Bethany, ALL are welcome to worship.
 - ⇒ Available outside the Sanctuary's north doors is a Fidget Station. Children and adults are invited to use these fidgets and art supplies to aid in your spiritual growth and presence in worship. Please return items to the station when you are finished.
 - ⇒ **Busy Bags:** Near the Sanctuary doors you will find premade bags perfect for littles. Grab one on the way in and return it on the way out.
 - ⇒ **Nursery:** For directions to our *friendly staffed Nursery*, please speak with an usher.