



January 8, 2023

## FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

4515 Dobie Road  
Okemos, MI 48864  
517-349-0620

### Baptism of our Lord

To make disciples for Jesus Christ. . .

. . .we **Gather** in faith for worship, prayer,  
study and fellowship

. . .we **Equip** the people of God with a faith  
that works in real life

. . .we **Serve** the world in the name of Jesus Christ

Pastor:..... Ellen Schoepf  
Music Director:.....Debra Borton-McDonough  
Organist/Pianist:.....Bruce Williams  
Church Secretary:..... Katie Love  
Youth & Education Director .....Pam Williams  
Audio/Video Techs: .....Justin Brown & Zach Hereza  
Pastor's email:.....[prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Church email:.....[faith@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:faith@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Website:.....[www.faithlutheranokemos.org](http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Facebook Page:.....[facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos](https://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos)

### Introduction to the day

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

## PRELUDE

“The Wexford Carol”

arr. Olive N. Russell

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN

## Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



- 1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866  
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.


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## GREETING


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


*Refrain*




Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.




Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the  
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for  
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for  
hun - gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam - i - ly; for  
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

*Refrain*



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.



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



peo-ple of God. Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and



hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his. This is the feast of

*Refrain*



vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. 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, hon-or,



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

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-9

*God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.*

A reading from Isaiah.

- <sup>1</sup>Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
- <sup>2</sup>He will not cry or lift up his voice,  
or make it heard in the street;
- <sup>3</sup>a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
- <sup>4</sup>He will not grow faint or be crushed  
until he has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
- <sup>5</sup>Thus says God, the LORD,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:

<sup>6</sup>I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
a light to the nations,  
<sup>7</sup>to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.  
<sup>8</sup>I am the LORD, that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to idols.  
<sup>9</sup>See, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth,  
I tell you of them.

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

## **PSALM: Psalm 29**

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters.

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.  
<sup>2</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**  
<sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.  
<sup>4</sup>**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**  
<sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**<sup>6</sup>the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the LORD  
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

**<sup>8</sup>The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup>The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the  
forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, “Glory!”

**<sup>10</sup>The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup>O LORD, give strength to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

## **SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43**

*Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

A reading from Acts.

<sup>34</sup>Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all



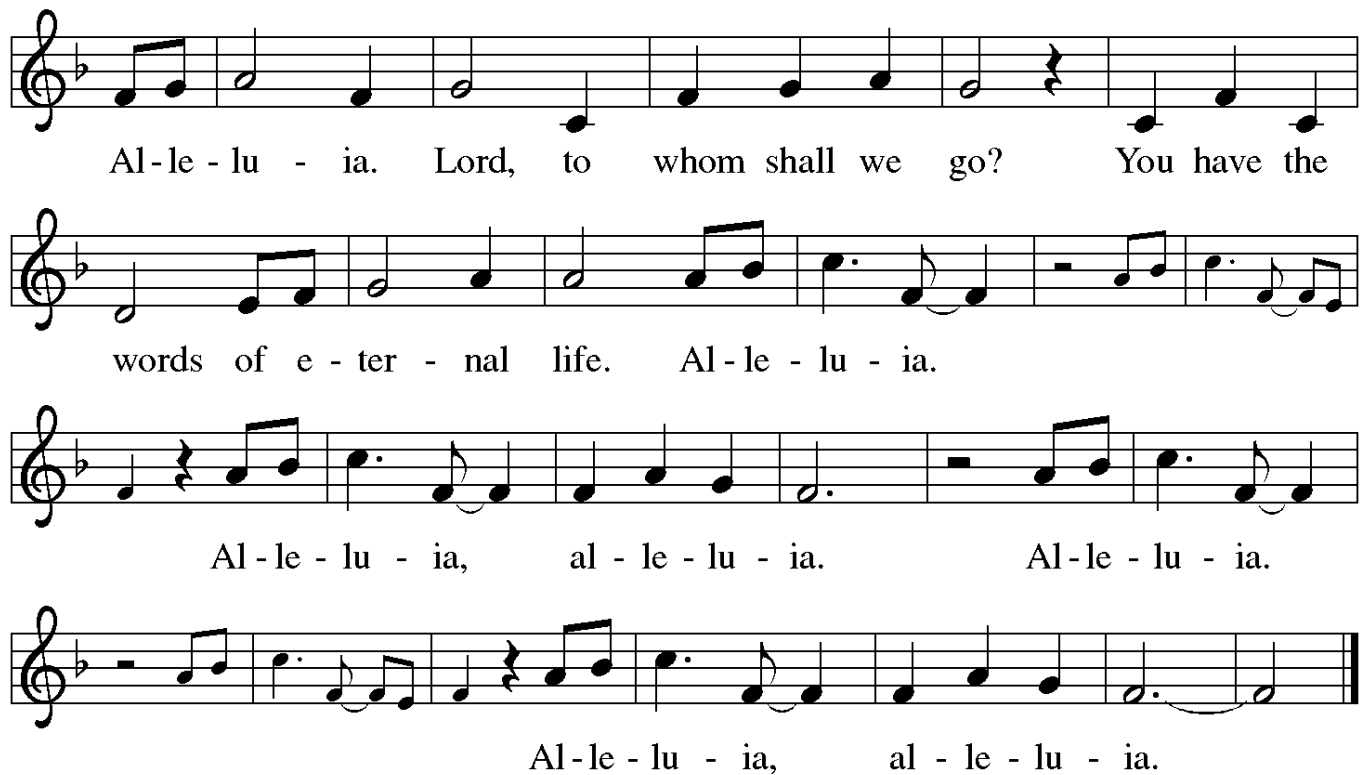
the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

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

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

*The Pantry Ministry & the Parish House Ministry are an important and vital part of our community. Today we will be taking an offering for the Pantry Ministry.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17**

*Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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

**SERMON**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized



1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you  
2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant  
3 Straight-way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - beyed the  
4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be



came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as  
true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's  
call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to  
signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may



ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.  
ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.  
give your life for all, to give your life for all.  
per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.

Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561

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## 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

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*Prayers of intercession are prayed. To each petition, the assembly responds: Merciful God, receive our prayer.*

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers, and the assembly responds:*

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## OFFERING

"Noble Magi"

(Nancy Gifford)

Mike Eschelbach, Diane Hill, Linda Triemer & Rich Triemer

Vocal Quartet

*Please stand if you are able.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

## **DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you. **And also 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, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light. By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

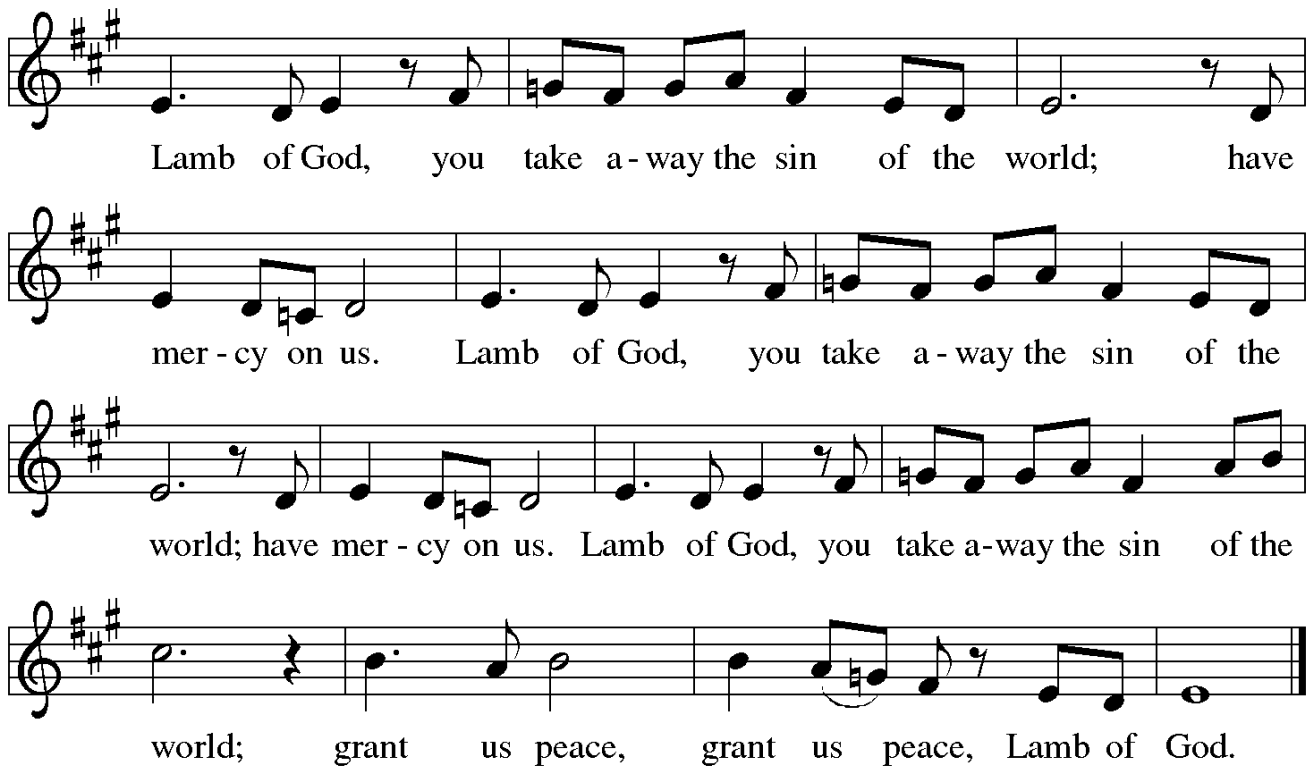
### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

### **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
Amen.

## COMMUNION SONG



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, Lamb of God.

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“We Three Kings”

arr. Jack C. Goode

*Please stand if you are able.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**



## BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod  
✝ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

### Bright and Glorious Is the Sky



1 Bright and glo - rious is the sky, ra - diant are the  
2 On that ho - ly Christ - mas night through the dark - ness  
3 Sa - ges from the east a - far, when they saw this  
4 Him they found in Beth - le - hem, yet he wore no



heav - ens high where the gold - en stars are shin - ing.  
beamed a light; all the stars a - bove were pal - ing,  
won - drous star, went to find the king of na - tions  
di - a - dem; there they saw a maid - en low - ly



All their rays to earth in - clin - ing beck - on us to  
all their lus - ter slow - ly fail - ing as the won - drous  
and to of - fer their ob - la - tions to the child, the  
with an in - fant pure and ho - ly rest - ing in her



heav'n a - bove, beck - on us to heav'n a - bove.  
star drew nigh, as the won - drous star drew nigh.  
new - born king, to the child, the new - born king.  
lov - ing arms, rest - ing in her lov - ing arms.

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## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

“Break Forth Into Joy”

(Christmas Oratorio, Epiphany)

J.S Bach, arr. Van Denman Thompson

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# Offerings

**12/31**

General Fund	<u>\$ 600.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 600.00
Vanco	
General Operating	\$ 1,645.50
Parish House	\$ 25.25
Pantry Fund	<u>\$ 75.25</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,346.00</b>

<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>1/1/22 -11/30/22</b>
Income	\$278,077.00
Expenses	<u>\$291,035.00</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$(12,958.00)

Altar Care: Diane Hill  
Lay Assistant: Ryan Thompson  
Nursery: Brenda Kopf  
Coffee Hour: Pam Williams

Reader: Jon Harrison  
Ushers: Doug & Linda Hirt  
Greeter: Chris & Jean Lewis  
Acolyte: Jasper Wawrzynski

**\*\*Date change\*\***

**Sunday, February 5th - All Church Potluck & Movie  
hosted by Green Team**

*There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex for the  
potluck/movie event*

**Soup/Chili Cookoff & Movie  
sponsored by the Green Team**

Due to the fact that our Fellowship Hall has been transformed into a Free Store for Knob Hill residents, we have **moved our Potluck/Movie event to Sunday, February 25**. So, we have decided to make this event a **Soup/Chili Cookoff!** We invite you to bring a pot of your favorite soup or chili recipe. We also invite you to bring quarters (or quiet money if you wish) and we will use that as a method of voting for the best soup or chili represented! The winning soup or chili recipe will then be published in the newsletter and all of the money collected will go toward the Food Pantry Project. The Green Team will provide drinks, cornbread, crackers, and cookies.

Following the luncheon, we will show the movie, *Merchants of Doubt*. The U.S. scientific community has long led the world in research on public health, science, and other issues affecting the quality of life among people.

In the book, *Merchants of Doubt*, historians Naomi Oreskes and Erick Conway explain how a small group of high-level scientists, with extensive political connections, ran effective campaigns to mislead the public and deny well-established scientific knowledge over four decades. In seven compelling chapters addressing tobacco, acid rain, the ozone hole, global warming, and DDT, Oreskes and Conway roll back the rug on this dark corner of the American scientific community, showing how the ideology of free market fundamentalism, aided by a too-compliant media, has skewed public understanding of some of the most pressing issues of our era. This book has been made into the documentary we will screen.

