

ENTER INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

Assisted listening devices are available in the sound booth.

PRELUDE

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

Wilbur Held

† CALL TO WORSHIP

† *Indicates the congregation should stand.*

L: We are marked as God's beloved ones.

P: What have we done to deserve God's love?

L: God's love is God's free gift to us,

P: always and forever.

L: Even when we are difficult and turn away from God,

P: God's love never vanishes from us.

L: Let us worship God who is ever faithful to us.

† PROCESSIONAL HYMN 185

When Morning Gilds the Skies

LAUDES DOMINI

† PRAYER

Lord of Hope and Light, in the midst of darkness, You offered light to people who lived in fear. Today that light comes to us as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. Open our hearts this day and remind us that You have marked us as people of hope and light. Prepare us to serve You by serving Your world. Amen.

† PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

As God has poured out the grace of forgiveness and love and peace through Christ, let us also share that grace with those we meet today. Let us greet one another as a sign of God's peace.

L: The peace of Christ is here among us.

P: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Baptized in Water

Music by Jane Holstein

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King; heirs of salvation, trusting his promise, faithfully now God's praises we sing. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ, our King; one with his rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praises we sing. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ, our King; born of one Father we are his children, joyfully now God's praises we sing. Alleluia! Praise to Christ our King!

LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

CALL TO THE WORD

Liturgically, today is known as "Baptism of the Lord." Jesus is not actually baptized for the forgiveness of sins like the rest of us. Jesus is baptized into His mission, the mission the Father has given Him – to redeem the world. In His baptism, Jesus submits fully to the Father's will and submerges Himself in His one single purpose – to save us from our sins. At the moment He feels the water, the heavens open and God says "This is my Son, whom I love, and with whom I am well-pleased." Today, consider that our own baptism reveals that God created each of us for His own good pleasure. When we allow ourselves to become fully immersed in God's mission to make right what is wrong, to heal what is hurt, to save what is headed for destruction, we can know God's pleasure just as surely as Jesus did there on the banks of the Jordan river.

† GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 3:15–22

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!

SERMON

The Heavens Were Opened

Pastor Meshach Kanyion

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Heavenly Father, we confess that we have not always paid much attention to the baptism of Jesus, but viewed it as a nice story which begins Jesus' ministry.

P: We don't always see ourselves as standing in that long line of those marked for service; and therefore it is easy for us to dismiss this as a nice story and nothing more.

L: Yet You have called us by name, knowing each of us, and loving us.

P: We are astonished by this.

L: We know that we have behaved in very unloving ways and in some behaviors which do not promote Your love and peace.

P: Forgive us for our blindness. Turn us around. Help us to be people who not only recognize the light, but who are willing to live in that light, bringing help to others in Your name. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ.

All pray in silence.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: People of God, you are known and loved by the Creator. You are marked as God's chosen ones to bring hope and peace to others. Be at peace and live in hope.

P: Thanks be to God. Amen.

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. Amen.

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

OFFERTORY

Offertory on WATERLIFE

David Christiansen

† DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of redemption and new life, we focus once more this day on the greatest gift ever given – Jesus, our Savior. As we look with hope to the new year ahead, help us to live and give of ourselves as those who know every day what a great gift we have been given. May it move us to give our whole selves more freely! In the name of Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, we pray! Amen.

GO FORTH WITH GOD'S BLESSING

† RECESSIONAL HYMN 664

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

THE ASH GROVE

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

Postlude in G Major

Music by Luigi Bottazzo

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Scripture readings are New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) unless otherwise noted.

IN WORSHIP TODAY

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are given by Jennifer Brown in memory of her parents, Rev. William and Gloria Thomas.

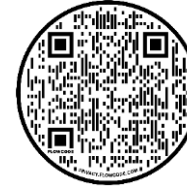
The rosebud is placed to celebrate the birth of Colbin Reynolds, born on December 15, 2024 to Jaycob Reynolds and Alana Tunner.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Meshach Kanyion, *Senior Pastor*
Brody Schmidt, *Acolyte*
Leslie Payne, *Lay Reader*
Joe Galyon, *Director of Worship and Arts*
Musicians, *Covenant Choir*
Peyton Voline, *Worship Technology Coordinator*
Gordon Stokely, *Presentation Operator*
Mark Hoover, *Video Mixer*

TELL US YOU'RE HERE

Thank you for worshiping with us. Please use the yellow communication sheet or this QR code to tell us you are here and to share prayer requests. If worshipping online, use [this link](#).

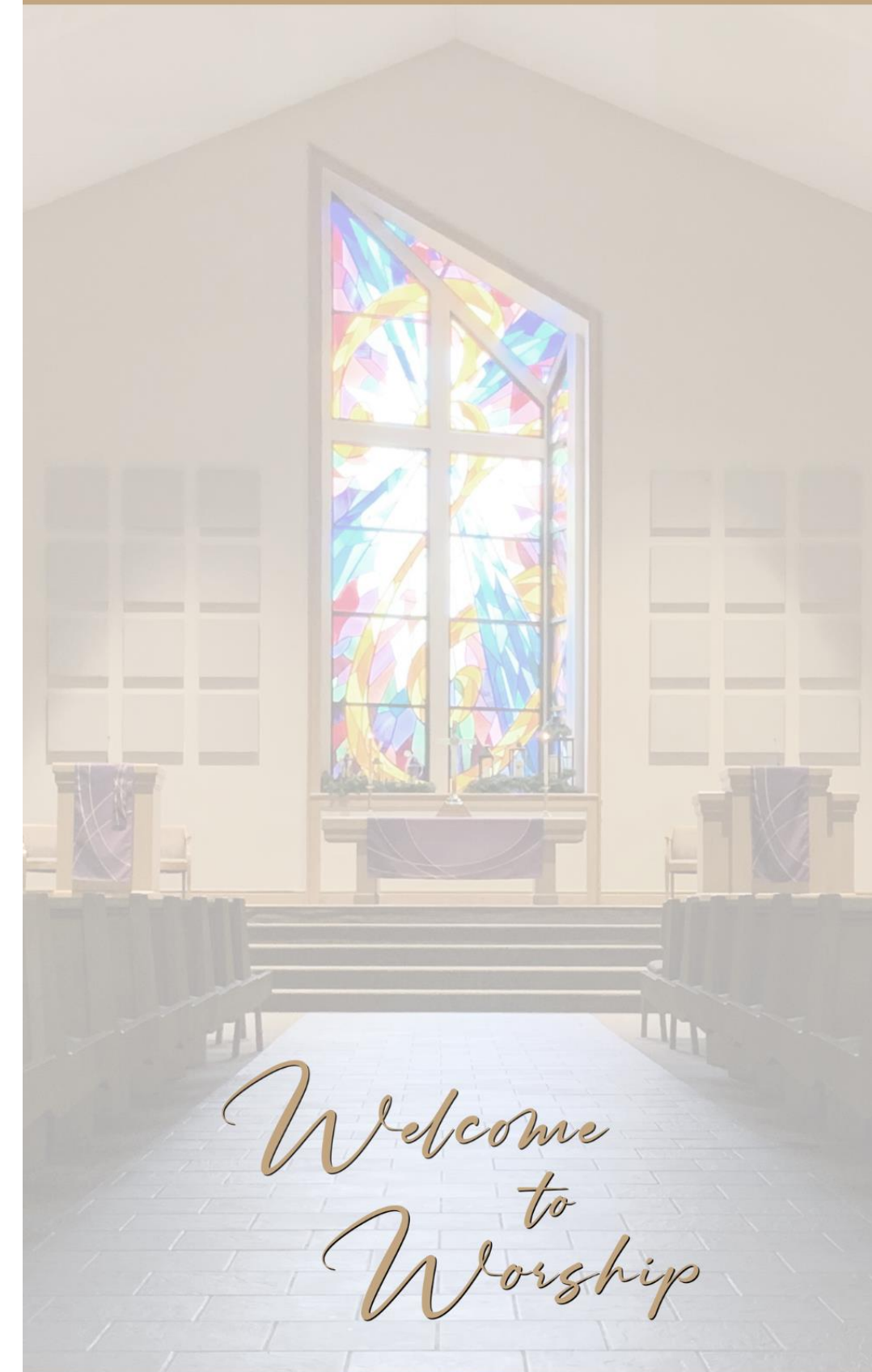


More information about our ministries is available at www.cos-umc.org.

Church of the SAVIOUR 
UNITED METHODIST

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Church of the Saviour United Methodist



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