

## CHRISTMAS DAY

The Lord Has Bared His Holy Arm  
December 25, 2022

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### AS WE GATHER

The long wait is over—the Savior is born! For many people, the days, weeks, and even months have been filled with anticipation for Christmas. For children, it may be an anticipation of gifts; for others, it may be long-awaited family time enjoyed and all the season brings. For all, we pray the Good News of a Savior born this day in the city of David is the overarching reason to celebrate. Others in history had to wait a much longer time for their Christmas joy. Approximately seven centuries before “the Word became flesh” (John 1:14), Isaiah would be inspired by the Spirit to proclaim to the people, “The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God” (Isaiah 52:10). Though the people of Isaiah’s day would not experience Christmas as we do, they would hold on by faith to the anticipated promise of salvation through our Savior who was to come. For us, we give thanks that salvation has come. In the Son of God wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger, and with the mission for humanity set before Him, “The LORD has bared His holy arm” (Isaiah 52:10). May this promise fulfilled increase our Christmas joy as God still comes to us today in His Means of Grace, that we not only see but often celebrate the salvation of our God.

**Reception of Holy Communion:** If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

+ PREPARATION +

### HYMN #379 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him Born the king of angels:

**Refrain: O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God In the highest: **Refrain**

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, To Thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

### LIGHTING OF THE WREATH

Pastor: On this holy day, we light the Christ Candle as we rejoice in the birth of our Savior Jesus, the Word made flesh, the Child of Bethlehem. The Christ Candle is a symbol of His presence among us. In the words of the psalmist, we, the people of His pasture, celebrate the birth of our Good Shepherd. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

People: **Serve the LORD with gladness!**

Pastor: Come into His presence with singing!

**People: Know that the LORD, He is God!**

Pastor: It is He who made us, and we are His;

**People: we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.**

Pastor: Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!

**People: Give thanks to Him; bless His name!**

Pastor: For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever,

**People: and His faithfulness to all generations.**

*The candles are lit during the hymn:*

**HYMN #349 “Hark the Glad Sound” Stanzas 1,2,4**

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
The Savior promised long;  
Let every heart prepare a throne  
And every voice a song.

He comes the pris'ners to release,  
In Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before Him burst,  
The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of His grace  
To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav'ns eternal arches ring  
With Thy beloved name.

#### **OPENING SENTENCES**

Pastor: In the beginning was the Word,

**People: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

Pastor: In Him was life,

**People: and the life was the light of men.**

Pastor: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**People: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

Pastor: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

**People: and the government shall be upon His shoulder,**

Pastor: and His name shall be called Wonderful  
Counselor, Mighty God,

**People: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Pastor: The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,

**People: and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

#### **CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: Jesus, Word made flesh, you came to dwell among us, but the darkness of our sin separates and we often fail to bask in the light of your presence.

**People: We are sinful and unclean; 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. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment.**

Pastor: John writes in our Gospel lesson, “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” Heavenly Father, too frequently we live in the darkness of unbelief.

**People: Forgive us, Lord, for those sins we know, and those sins we do not know.**

Pastor: For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**People:** 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.

**Pastor:** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to be born into this world and in our flesh for us, to live a perfect life we can never attain, and to give His life as a perfect sacrifice for you. For His sake, He forgives you all your sins. Christ was born to live for us, to die for us, that we by faith will rise with Him in victory. He was born as our Savior to forgive. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

**Pastor:** The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,

**People:** and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

+ WORD +

#### HYMN OF PRAISE

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To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;  
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!  
We praise and bless you, Father; Your holy name, we sing –  
Our thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, our Heav'nly King.

To You, O solebegotten, The Father's Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,  
Where You in pow'r are seated  
At God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever, Be worshipped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High.  
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

#### SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Pastor:** Let us pray. O God, you make us glad with the celebration of the birth of your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

**People:** Help us and all people to the ends of the earth to see the salvation you have delivered to the world through this holy child.

**Pastor:** Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

(Be seated)

#### OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 52:7–10*

(The Lord's coming salvation)

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."<sup>8</sup>The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. <sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### GRADUAL

Pastor: To us a child is born, to us a son is given;

**People: and the government shall be upon His shoulder.**

Pastor: And His name shall be called Wonderful  
Counselor, Mighty God,

**People: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Pastor: Sing to the Lord a new song,

**People: for He has done marvelous things!**

**EPISTLE** *Hebrews 1:1–12* (The supremacy of God’s Son)

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. <sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? <sup>6</sup> And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” <sup>7</sup> Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.” <sup>8</sup> But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. <sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” <sup>10</sup> And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; <sup>11</sup> they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, <sup>12</sup> like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### VERSE

Pastor: Alleluia. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.  
Alleluia.

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *John 1:1–14* (The Word became flesh.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Be seated)

### **SERMON HYMN #384 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”**

Of the Father’s love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see Evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed,  
When the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,  
And the babe, the world’s Redeemer,  
First revealed His sacred face Evermore and evermore.

This is He whom seers in old time  
Chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets  
Promised in their faithful word.  
Now He shines, the long expected;  
Let creation praise its Lord Evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heav’n adore Him;  
Angel hosts, His praises sing.  
Pow’rs, dominions, bow before Him  
And extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Ev’ry voice in concert ring Evermore and evermore.

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,  
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion,  
And eternal victory Evermore and evermore. Amen.

**SERMON                      “Home For Christmas”                      John 1:1-14**

(Rise)

### **NICENE CREED**

**People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

### **CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

As your offering is collected, please sign our fellowship folder located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, we give you thanks that your Son, the eternal Word, has become flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Extend His praise into all the world, that with us many would come to hope in His steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Send forth men to proclaim your peace and bring us your good news of joy and salvation. Keep them faithful to declare your gracious reign in Christ. Bless the work of missionaries at home and abroad, that all the ends of the earth may see your salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: As our families gather in this holy season, give us patience, that we may be slow to judge and quick to forgive. Comfort the lonely with your presence, and help us extend the welcome of our homes and the friendship of Your grace. Make us mindful of those less fortunate, who celebrate this blessed feast in poverty and want, and teach us to be generous. Accept with our offerings the living sacrifice of our bodies to your service and our voices in praise and thanksgiving. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Your Son upholds the universe by the word of His power. Grant our nation to walk humbly before you. Bless our soldiers who stand watch this day. Guide and protect our first responders. Keep them in safety as they serve us, and uphold their families especially those separated in these holy days. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Merciful Father, guard and keep all who are sick, lonely, overwhelmed by grief or poor in spirit, that they may be comforted and healed according to your good and gracious will. Let them look to Jesus Christ and be reminded that He is the light no darkness can overcome. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Grant that we may come worthily to receive the body and blood of Jesus with faith in His bodily presence for us, that we may depart with grace upon grace from His fullness. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Father in heaven, we rejoice in your servants who faithfully served in your church during their earthly pilgrimage. Today we especially remember Bob and Jan Koehn. Bless and comfort Tammy Evers and family as they remember the blessing of her parents, and fill them with hope and peace through the promises of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We thank you, Lord God, for all your people who have gone before us and now rest in your presence. Keep us faithful with them until that day when you make all things new; for you live and reign with Christ and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**+ SACRAMENT +**

### **PREFACE**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### **PROPER PREFACE**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we by faith give thanks for the salvation you have bestowed upon your people, baring your holy arm before all the nations; for you came from heaven to earth as one of us, as an infant for the hope of humanity and restoration as Redeemer. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

### **SANCTUS**

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Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim  
shout the glory of your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on those whom you created and sent your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.  
Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg you, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament.

Pastor: Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To you alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

#### **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us your body and blood to eat and to drink, you lead us to remember and confess your holy cross and passion, your blessed death, your rest in the tomb, your resurrection from the dead, your ascension into heaven, and your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### **THE 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.**

### **PAX DOMINI**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: Amen.**

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

#### HYMN #380 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

**Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

Christ, by highest heav’n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!

#### **Refrain**

Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris’n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth. **Refrain**

#### HYMN #376 “Once in Royal David’s City”

Once in royal David’s city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven,  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable,  
And His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

For He is our childhood’s pattern,  
Day by day like us He grew;  
He was little, weak, and helpless,  
Tears and smiles like us He knew;  
And He feels for all our sadness,  
And He shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
Through His own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heav’n above;  
And He leads His children on  
To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor, lowly stable  
With the oxen standing by  
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,  
Set at God’s right hand on high.  
Then like stars His children, crowned,  
All in white, His praise will sound!



## HYMN #358 “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

“From heav’n above to earth I come  
To bear good news to ev’ry home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,  
Where-of I now will say and sing.

“To you this night is born a child  
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
This little child of lowly birth  
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

“This is the Christ, our God Most High,  
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;  
He will Himself your Savior be  
From all your sins to set you free.

“He will on you the gifts bestow;  
Prepared by God for all below,  
That in His kingdom, bright and fair,  
You may with us His glory share.

“These are the signs that you shall mark:  
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.  
There you will find the infant laid  
By whom the heav’ns and earth were made.”

Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,  
Through whom the sinful world is blest!  
You came to share my misery  
That You might share Your joy with me.

My heart for very joy must leap;  
My lips no more can silence keep.  
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue  
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

Glory to God in highest heav’n,  
Who unto us His Son had giv’n!  
While angels sing with pious mirth  
A glad new year to all the earth.

## COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

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O Lord, now let your servant Depart in heav’nly peace,  
For I have seen the glory Of your redeeming grace:  
A light to lead the Gentiles Unto your holy hill,  
The glory of your people, your chosen Israel.

All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One;  
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,  
God’s triune name resounding Through all eternity.

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God,  
that we have seen your salvation in our Savior  
born this day, and in His body and blood given  
and shed for us for the forgiveness of sins. We  
implore you that of your infinite love, mercy, and  
forgiveness, you would strengthen us through  
the same in faith toward you, that we would  
share the gifts of grace and be the beautiful feet  
with the Good News of Christ the Savior born, in  
fervent love toward one another; through Jesus  
Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and  
forever.

**People: Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

Pastor: Christmas peace and joy through Christ, His only-  
begotten Son, be yours; and the blessing of God  
Almighty—Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit—be and  
abide with you forever.

**People: Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN #387 “Joy to the World”

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Preacher	Pastor Doug Bender
Liturgist	Pastor Harold Bender
Lector	Gary Knight
Organist	Olivia Kukor

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