

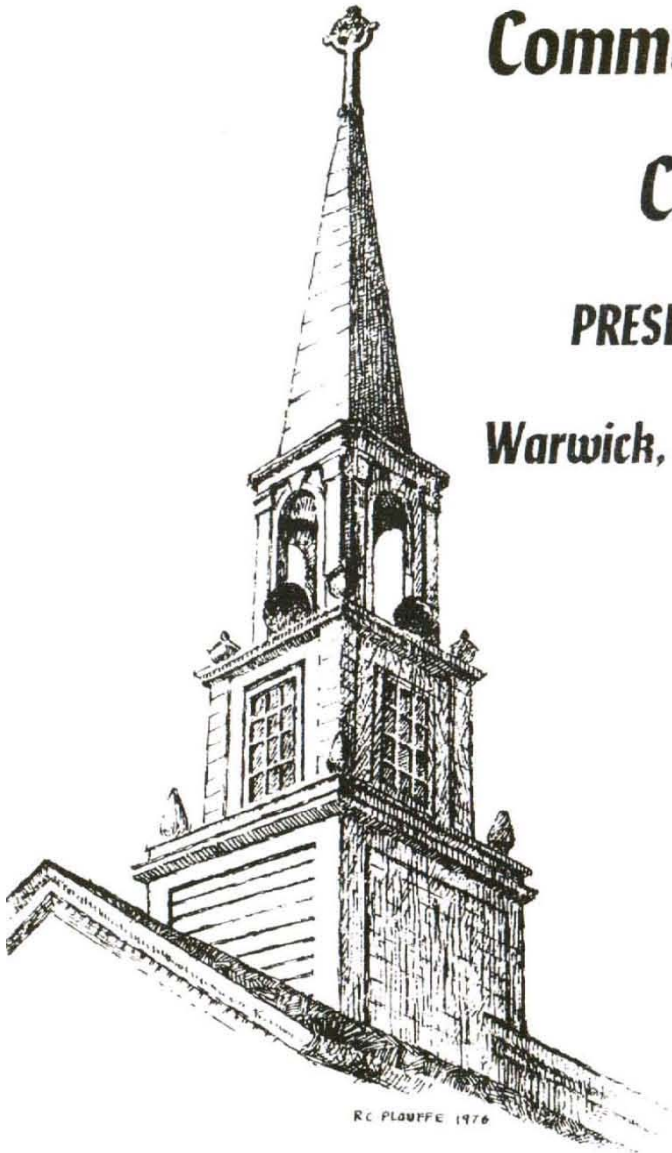
Greenwood

Community

Church

PRESBYTERIAN

Warwick, Rhode Island



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
Morning Worship – 10:00 a.m.

May 1, 2022

Silent prayer for use in preparation for worship:

Teach us, Lord, to serve You as You deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for any reward save that of knowing we do Your will, Amen.

*A prayer of Ignatius Loyola, 1491-1556,
Founder of the Jesuit Order*

PRELUDE

*Alle Menschen Müssen Sterben
(At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing)*

J. Pachelbel

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Revelation 5:11-13

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands of thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang:

"WORTHY IS THE LAMB, WHO WAS SLAIN, TO RECEIVE POWER AND WEALTH AND WISDOM AND STRENGTH AND HONOR AND GLORY AND BLESSING!"

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing:

"TO HIM WHO SITS ON THE THRONE AND TO THE LAMB BE BLESSING AND HONOR AND GLORY AND POWER, FOR EVER AND EVER!"

***+HYMN**

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(first silently, then in unison):*

O GOD, THE HOLY SPIRIT, MOST LOVING COMFORTER, WE PRAY YOU WILL TURN WHAT IS EVIL IN US INTO GOOD, AND WHATEVER IS GOOD INTO WHAT IS BETTER. BY YOUR CONVICTING POWER WE SEEK FORGIVENESS THROUGH CHRIST. TURN OUR MOURNING INTO JOY, OUR WANDERING FEET INTO THE RIGHT PATH, OUR IGNORANCE INTO KNOWLEDGE OF TRUTH, OUR LUKEWARMNESS INTO ZEAL, OUR FEAR INTO LOVE, OUR MATERIAL GOODS INTO SPIRITUAL GIFTS, AND ALL THAT IS TRANSIENT INTO WHAT LASTS FOREVER, THAT EVERYTHING CREATED AND FINITE IN US MIGHT BE USED FOR IMMEASURABLE GOOD, WHICH YOU YOURSELF ARE, O GOD, OUR SAVIOR, AMEN.

(a prayer of Thomas a Kempis, 1380-1471)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(responsively)*

Believe the good news of the Gospel.

IN JESUS CHRIST, WE ARE FORGIVEN.

***GLORIA PATRI**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, amen.*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Nicene Creed

WE 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 THE 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, 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 SITTETH ON THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER. AND HE SHALL COME AGAIN WITH GLORY TO JUDGE BOTH THE QUICK AND THE DEAD, WHOSE KINGDOM SHALL HAVE NO END.
AND WE BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE LORD AND GIVER OF LIFE, WHO PROCEEDETH FROM THE FATHER AND THE SON, WHO WITH THE FATHER AND THE SON TOGETHER IS WORSHIPPED AND GLORIFIED, WHO SPOKE BY THE PROPHETS. AND WE BELIEVE ONE HOLY CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH. WE ACKNOWLEDGE ONE BAPTISM FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS. AND WE LOOK FOR THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD, AND THE LIFE OF THE WORLD TO COME. AMEN.

ANTHEM

In Christ Alone

arr. Mark Hayes

(Original composition by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty)

*In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All, Here in the love of Christ I stand.*

*In Christ alone! – Who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid: here in the death of Christ I live.*

*There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine – Bought with the precious blood of Christ.*

*No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.*

SCRIPTURE READING

John 21

***HYMN**

Jesus Calls Us

SERMON

MORE THAN A FISH STORY

OFFERING

Offertory

My Jesus, I Love Thee

arr. Diane Bish

**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!*

**Prayer of Dedication*

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord be with you.

AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Lift up your hearts.

WE LIFT THEM UP TO THE LORD.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.

ALL GLORY AND THANKSGIVING TO YOU, ALMIGHTY GOD, FOR OUT OF YOUR GREAT MERCY YOU GAVE YOUR ONLY SON JESUS CHRIST TO TAKE OUR NATURE UPON HIM, AND TO SUFFER DEATH UPON THE CROSS FOR OUR REDEMPTION. REMEMBERING HIS INCARNATION AND HOLY LIFE, HIS PASSION AND PRECIOUS DEATH, HIS RESURRECTION AND GLORIOUS ASCENSION, AND HIS CONTINUAL INTERCESSION ON OUR BEHALF, WE DO SET FORTH THE MEMORIAL HE COMMANDED US TO MAKE. BLESS AND SANCTIFY THESE YOUR GIFTS OF BREAD AND WINE, THAT THE BREAD WE BREAK MAY BE THE COMMUNION OF THE BODY OF CHRIST, AND THE CUP OF BLESSING WE DRINK THE COMMUNION OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST. ACCEPT THIS OUR SACRIFICE OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING AS A LIVING AND HOLY OFFERING OF OURSELVES, THAT OUR LIVES MAY PROCLAIM THE ONE CRUCIFIED AND RISEN, WHO TAUGHT US TO PRAY: "OUR FATHER ... "

The Words of Institution

The Communion

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

***HYMN**

Give Thanks!

*Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son; (2x)*

*And now let the weak say, "I am strong;" let the poor say, "I am rich,"
because of what the Lord has done for us (2x)*

(repeat first stanza once, end with "Give thanks!")

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Paeon

*W. Oliphant Chuckerbutty
(Song of Praise)*

AT THE LAMB'S HIGH FEAST WE SING

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our vic - to - rious King,
 2 Where the Pas - chal blood is poured, death's dark an - gel sheathes his sword;
 3 Might - y vic - tim from on high, hell's fierce powers be - neath thee lie;
 4 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy, these a - lone do sin de - stroy.

who hath washed us in the tide flow - ing from his pierc - ed side;
 Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go through the wave that drowns the foe.
 thou hast con - quered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light:
 From sin's power do thou set free souls new - born, O Lord, in thee.

praise we him, whose love di - vine gives his sa - cred Blood for wine,
 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal vic - tim, Pas - chal bread;
 now no more can death ap - pall, now no more the grave en - thrall;
 Hymns of glo - ry, songs of praise, Fa - ther, un - to thee we raise:

gives his Bo - dy for the feast, Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.
 with sin - cer - i - ty and love, eat we man - na from a - bove.
 thou hast o - pened par - a - dise, and in thee thy saints shall rise.
 ris - en Lord, all praise to thee with the Spi - rit ev - er be.

Words: Latin, 1632; tr. Robert Campbell (1814-1868), alt.
 Music: Salzburg, melody Jakob Hintze (1622-1702); harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

♩-48
 77. 77. D

JOHN 21

Afterward Jesus appeared again to His disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not know it was Jesus.

He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered.

He said, "Cast your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had stripped for work) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread.

Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153 of them, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love Me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "You know that I love You." Jesus said, "Feed My lambs."

Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love Me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, You know that I love You." Jesus said, "Take care of My sheep."

The third time He said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, You know all things; You know I love You."

Jesus said, "Feed My sheep. Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then He said to him, "Follow me!"

Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray You?") When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?"

Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me." Because of this, the rumor spread among the brothers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?"

This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.

Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

Jesus Calls Us

"Come, follow me," Jesus said... At once they left their nets and followed him.
Matt. 4:19, 20

Capo 1: ♯ (G) (D⁷) (G) 7

1. Je - sus calls us: o'er the tu - mult of our
2. As, of old, a - pos - tles heard it by the
3. Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
4. In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
5. Je - sus calls us: by thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,

(C) (B) (E⁷) (A) (D⁷)

life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his sweet voice
Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and
• vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thine o -

(G) ♯ (G⁷) (C) (D⁷) (G) 7

sound - eth, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me":
kin - dred, leav - ing all for his dear sake.
• keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.

VARIOUS EXPLANATIONS OF THE SYMBOLISM OF "153"

(Sermon Supplement)

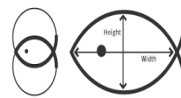
Over the centuries many have speculated as to the significance (if any) of this specific number of fish caught in John 21.

In the fifth century, apparently it was believed there were only 153 different known species of fish in the world. St. Jerome speculated the net miraculously had one of each species ... thus representing that people from every nation will be gathered together to Jesus Christ.

Also in the fifth century, Cyril of Alexandria wrote the number 153 is made up of three elements: 100 represented the fullness of the Gentiles to be saved, 50 symbolized the remnant of Israel and the three represented the Trinity.

I've also read that Cyril of Alexandria was something of a mathematician. He also speculated the number 153 was obviously a Trinitarian reference and/or symbol, because 153 is what mathematicians tell us is a "three narcissistic number" – another term is a "triangular number" – both terms are for numbers that are the sum of its own three digits each raised to the power of the number of digits (or a three digit number that is the sum of the cubes of its digits). 153 -- One to the Third power ($1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$) plus Five to the Third power ($5 \times 5 \times 5 = 125$), plus 3 to the Third power ($3 \times 3 \times 3 = 27$) gives us $1 + 125 + 27$ and that equals ... 153! Yes, obviously a Trinitarian symbol ... threes all over!

Augustine of Hippo, something of a mathematician as well, wrote that 10 is the number of the Law (there are Ten Commandments), and 7 is the number of grace (e.g., the seven-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit). So, putting together Law PLUS Grace, 10 plus 7, you get 17. Now, add up the numbers one through seventeen ($1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9+10+11+12+13+14+15+16+17$) and you get ... you guessed it ... 153! 153 fish represents all those who by both law and grace (as all have need of grace, as all have broken the Law) will be gathered into the grand "net" of salvation by the work of Christ (St Augustine, *Commentary on John*, 72.8).



$$\frac{w}{h} = \sqrt{3} = \frac{265}{153}$$

Pythagoras was really into mathematics. He had calculated that 153 is the denominator of the closest known fraction to the square root of 3 ($265/153$), and this was also the ratio of a fish shape drawn between two overlapping circles which are centered on each other's circumference. The shape is known as the *vesica piscis* and the ratio was called by Pythagoras the "measure of the fish." If the two circles represent God and humanity, then the overlap represents Jesus as God incarnate, along with His followers, whose sign became the sign of the fish.

Stephen of Warwick speculates it is a prophetic number about a "messianic" figure to come centuries later ... and sure enough, NFL quarterback great Roger Staubach went on to throw exactly 153 touchdowns in his career from 1956 – 1971. Seriously, though, Stephen of Warwick thinks John told us the exact number of fish for the same simple reason every fisherman tells you how many fish were caught ... because he was on the boat!

**GREENWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN
805 MAIN AVENUE
WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND 02886**

May 1, 2022

***WE WELCOME** all who are worshipping in our sanctuary today; welcome, too, to all with us online! A special word of welcome to any visiting with us this morning; whether you are visiting us just for a day or looking for a new church home. Information packets are available in the narthex, or feel free to ask an usher if you have any questions. All are cordially invited to Coffee Hour downstairs following the service.*



FLOWERS THIS WEEK are given to the glory of God by Peggy Phillips and Cathy Maguire in loving memory of loved ones and by Bob and Karen Hocking in loving memory of Karen's father, Lawrence J. Cloutier.

THE 2022 FLOWER CALENDAR: The following dates are still available to honor a loved one, mark a special occasion, or commemorate the memory of a dearly departed relative or friend and, in doing so, help beautify our sanctuary for worship: *May 29 (one), June 26 (both), July 10 & 17 (one), August 14 (one), August 28 (one), Oct. 2 & 9 (one), Oct. 16 & 23 (both), Oct. 30 (one), Nov. 13, 20 (one).* Call the church office (737-1230) to sign up for dates. **The cost is NOW \$20 per bouquet;** as with many commodities today, the cost of fresh flowers is rapidly rising, necessitating a \$5 increase.

SPRING CONCERT: Join us **TODAY May 1, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.** as the Greenwood Concert Choir presents an afternoon of sacred music in celebration of the resurrection and in prayer for the spiritual state of our nation and world. Enjoy grand, joyful settings of favorite hymns and special offerings from our Handbell Choir, Youth Choir, and instrumentalists. Free admission; freewill offering collected. In person **ONLY**. Video recording available upon request by emailing music@gccp.org.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT: Friday, May 6, 6:00-9:00 PM!

SAVE THE DATES

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL July 18 - July 22. We can't wait to explore a new experience and have a blast at VBS! Ages four through entering grade 6.



JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL ALL-CHURCH PICNIC June 5, starting NOON at the Masonic Youth Center. Bring a dish to share (salad, side dish, or dessert). Hotdogs, hamburgers and sausages will be expertly grilled; beverages will be provided. Don't forget your hats, sunscreen and maybe a lawn chair!

OUR MISSION

The Greenwood Community Church, Presbyterian, seeks to have a three-fold ministry in obedience to our Lord's Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20):

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations ..." We seek to bring men and women, boys and girls of all nationalities into a vital relationship with the Son of God.

"... baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ..." We seek to bring men and women, boys and girls into a vital relationship with the family of God.

"... teaching them to observe all I have commanded you ..." We seek to bring men and women, boys and girls into a vital relationship with the Word of God.

OUR SESSION

M. Barry Baxter
Marcia Camillieri Camp
Dennis J. Charpentier
Beth A. Fish

Kevin L. Golde
Emmy J. Kmet
H. Samuel Koldyk
Denise S. Mair

D. Elaine Magyar, Clerk
Wayne A. Meunier
W. Jay Swiatek
Kristine L. Swanson

OUR BOARD OF DEACONS

Monika Algozino
Judith Hall Barry
Jean A. Brown
Cheryl L. Bowser
Peter O. Camp
Beverly A. Carson
Joan Eichenfeldt

Ronald E. Fish
Stephen R. Hall
Vera M. Koldyk
Louis P. Messier
Claudette Pailin
Sherry L. Phillips
Cynthia M. Pisano

Jeffrey S. Plouffe
Susan Riel
JoAn L. Schultz
Nancy H. Sumrall
Janet P. Swanson
Wilma E. Swanson
Robert J. Whitney

Virginia A. Jacobs, Moderator

OUR STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Clark, Pastor
John C. Black, Director of Music and Choirs, Organist
Alexandra K. Nichols, Music Associate
Virginia A. Jacobs, Director of Family Ministries
Carol A. Castergine, Church Office Administrator
John W. Pickup, Sexton

M. Barry Baxter, Treasurer
Emmy J. Kmet, Financial Secretary
Dennis J. Charpentier, President

805 Main Avenue, Warwick, Rhode Island 02886
Church Telephone: (401) 737-1230
www.gccp.org

LECTOR NOTES FOR MAY 1, 2022

CONFESSION OF SIN: “Let us now take time to confess our sins against God and our neighbor.” (allow 20-30 seconds of silent prayer, then announce “Let us pray in unison...”)

O GOD, THE HOLY SPIRIT, MOST LOVING COMFORTER, WE PRAY YOU WILL TURN WHAT IS EVIL IN US INTO GOOD, AND WHATEVER IS GOOD INTO WHAT IS BETTER. BY YOUR CONVICTING POWER WE SEEK FORGIVENESS THROUGH CHRIST. TURN OUR MOURNING INTO JOY, OUR WANDERING FEET INTO THE RIGHT PATH, OUR IGNORANCE INTO KNOWLEDGE OF TRUTH, OUR LUKEWARMNESS INTO ZEAL, OUR FEAR INTO LOVE, OUR MATERIAL GOODS INTO SPIRITUAL GIFTS, AND ALL THAT IS TRANSIENT INTO WHAT LASTS FOREVER, THAT EVERYTHING CREATED AND FINITE IN US MIGHT BE USED FOR IMMEASURABLE GOOD, WHICH YOU YOURSELF ARE, O GOD, OUR SAVIOR, AMEN. *(a prayer of Thomas a Kempis, 1380-1471)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Believe the Good news of the Gospel.
IN JESUS CHRIST, WE ARE FORGIVEN.

GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be;
World without end. Amen, amen.*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

“Please remain standing as we affirm our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed:

I will be doing the Scripture reading. Usually there are two readings, but (a) this one is a bit long, (b) today’s Call to Worship is a Scripture reading.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: “Let us pray.” “Dear God, we offer You our praise, we offer you our hearts, we offer you our gifts, and we offer You our lives, with heartfelt gratitude for everything You have offered to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.”

(During the final stanza of the last hymn, CLOSE the lectern Bible and be seated following the benediction.)