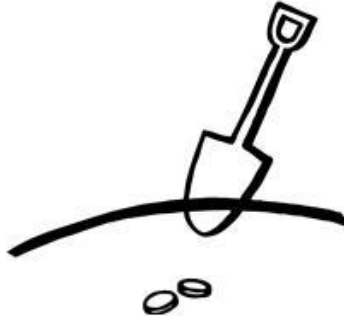


# *Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter*

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, November 19, 2023

*25th Sunday after Pentecost*



## **WELCOME/GATHERING**

**PRELUDE:** *Fugue in C Major*

Handel

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,  
as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

**C Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Holy One,

**C we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

P Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through ☩ Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

**C Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG: *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory*

All Stand & Sing



1 Mine eyes have seen the glo - ry of the com - ing of the Lord;  
2 He has sound - ed forth the trum - pet that shall nev - er call re - treat;  
3 In the beau - ty of the lil - ies Christ was born a - cross the sea,



he is tram - pling out the vin - tage where the grapes of wrath are stored;  
he is sift - ing out the hearts of men be - fore his judg - ment seat.  
with a glo - ry in his bos - om that trans - fig - ures you and me.



he has loosed the fate - ful light - ning of his ter - ri - ble swift sword:  
Oh, be swift, my soul, to an - swer him; be ju - bi - lant, my feet!  
As he died to make men ho - ly, let us live to make men free,



his truth is march - ing on.  
Our God is march - ing on.  
while God is march - ing on.



*Refrain*  
Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah!



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! His truth is march - ing on.



Text: Julia Ward Howe, 1819–1910  
Music: BATTLE HYMN, North American, 19th cent.

## GREETING

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

**C** And also with you.

## KYRIE

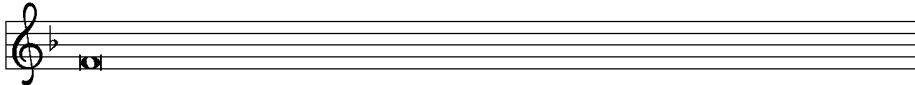
*Pastor*

*Congregation*

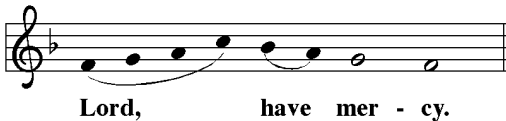


**P** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

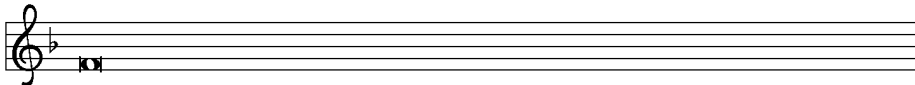
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**P** and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



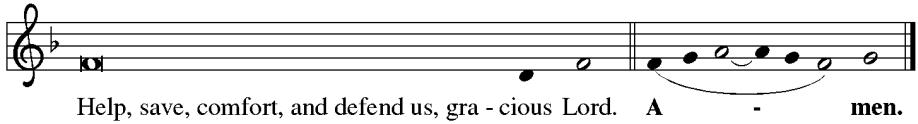
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**P** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

*Pastor*

*Congregation*

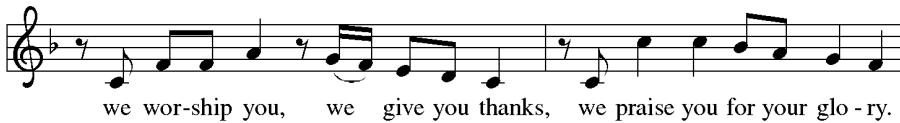


## GLORY TO GOD

*Assisting minister*



*All*



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## SALUTATION

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

*We invite children to come forward for a children's message before moving to children's church.*

## FIRST READING

**Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

A reading from the first chapter of Zephaniah.

*Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.*

<sup>7</sup>Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. <sup>12</sup>At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, “The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm.” <sup>13</sup>Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

<sup>14</sup>The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. <sup>15</sup>That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, <sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

<sup>17</sup>I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. <sup>18</sup>Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD’s wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

## 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

A reading from the fifth chapter of 1Thessalonians.

*Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ’s return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith

and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL

**Matthew 25:14-30**

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>14</sup>“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have

been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

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

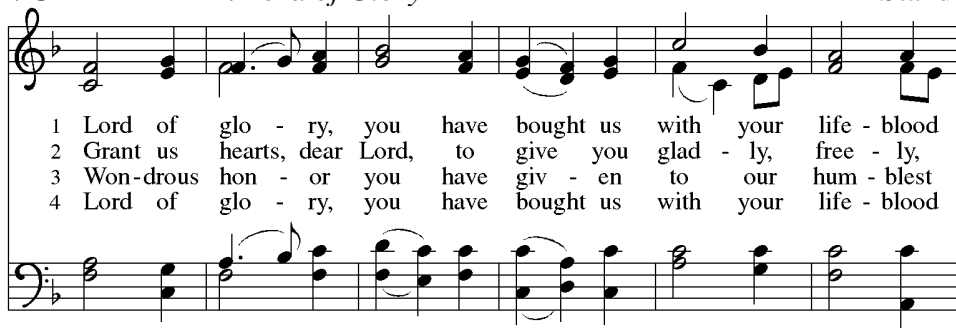
## SERMON

Pastor Micah

*Silence is Kept for Reflection.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY: *Lord of Glory*

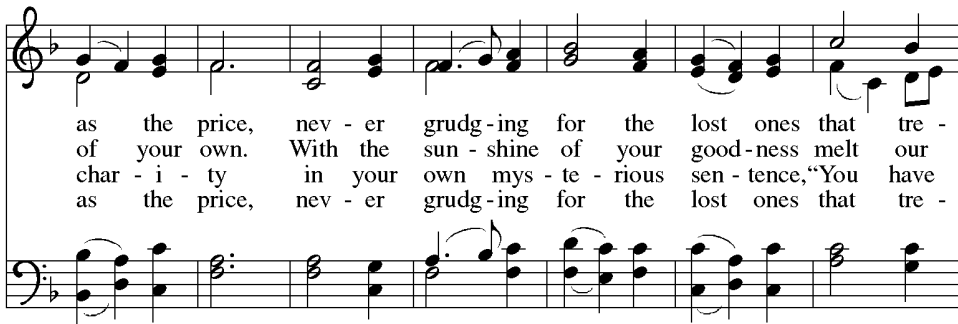
Stand & Sing



The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is in the Soprano part, and the bass line provides harmonic support. The lyrics are as follows:

1	Lord of	glo - ry,	you	have	bought us	with	your	life - blood
2	Grant us	hearts,	dear	Lord,	to	give	you	glad - ly, free - ly,
3	Won-drous	hon - or	you	have	giv - en	to	our	hum - blest
4	Lord of	glo - ry,	you	have	bought us	with	your	life - blood

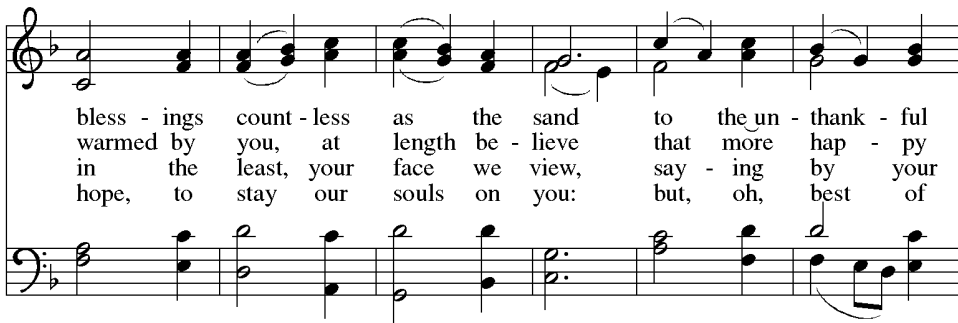




as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -  
of your own. With the sun - shine of your good - ness melt our  
char - i - ty in your own mys - te - rious sen - tence, "You have  
as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -



men - dous sac - ri - fice; and with that have free - ly giv - en  
thank - less hearts of stone till our cold and self - ish na - tures,  
done it all to me." Na - ked, sick, in pris - on, hun - gry—  
men - dous sac - ri - fice. Give us faith to trust you bold - ly,



bles - ings count - less as the sand to the un - thank - ful  
warmed by you, at length be - lieve that more hap - py  
in the least, your face we view, say - ing by your  
hope, to stay our souls on you: but, oh, best of



and the e - vil with your own un - spar - ing hand.  
and more bless - ed 'tis to give than to re - ceive.  
poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you."  
all your grac - es, with your love our love re - new.

## **APOSTLES 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**

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the church to serve. Turn us from fear and self-serving ways, that we use our talents to glorify you and encourage our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Sustain the life of the planet; protect farmlands and harvests. Direct all people in wise stewardship of all the earth's resources. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You call us to honesty and integrity. Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their leaders. Free any who are oppressed, expose all corruption, and bring redemption to victims of injustice. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Where there is sickness or sorrow, bring healing, and where there is loneliness, reveal your love in community. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the faith formation ministries of our church. Give to all children, youth, and adults who study your word the breastplate of faith and love. Shape us by your love and show us how to encourage one another. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, you are faithful in all generations. For the promise of life and rest and for the witness of those who have died in faith we praise your goodness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM:** *All Shall Be Amen and Alleluia*

Church Choir

# OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Come, All You People*

All Stand & Sing

1 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;  
 2 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;  
 3 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;

come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;  
 come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;  
 come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;

come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;  
 come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;  
 come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;

come now and wor - ship the Lord.  
 come now and wor - ship the Lord.  
 come now and wor - ship the Lord.




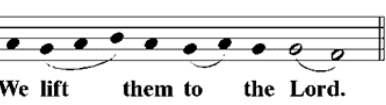


Text: Alexander Gondo, tr. I-to Loh, b. 1936, alt.  
 Music: UYAIMOSI; Alexander Gondo.  
 Text and music: © 1986 World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland and the Asian Institute of Liturgy & Music.

## OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. Amen.


## DIALOGUE

	<i>Pastor</i>	<i>Congregation</i>
		
<i>Pastor</i>		
		
<i>Congregation</i>		

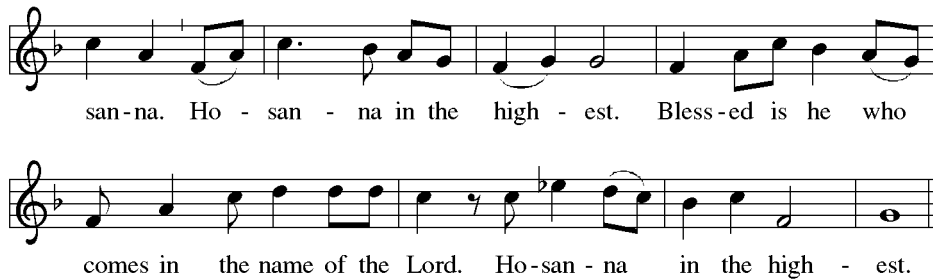
## PREFACE

P ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### 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.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.  
**C** Thanks be to God

## 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.

## COMMUNION

*During communion the congregation is invited forward by rows, beginning in the back, and will receive the bread and wine at the front of the aisle. You may either eat and drink then, or return to your seat to do so, and place the cups in the bin in your pew.*

# MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *Christ, Be Our Light*

All Sing



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



*Refrain*

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.



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

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Let us pray.

C **Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

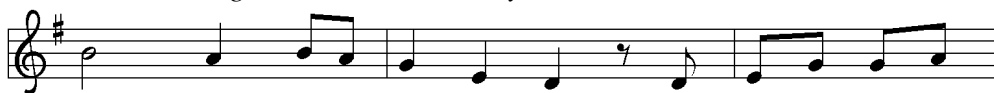
P May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

C **Amen.**

# CLOSING HYMN: *Light Dawns on a Weary World*

All Stand & Sing



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to  
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find  
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea-tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a  
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a  
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom-ised day of jus - tice comes.  
wea - ry world: the prom-ised feast of plen - ty comes.  
wea - ry world: the prom-ised green of E - den comes.



*Refrain*

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun-tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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## SENDING

P Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** *If Thou But Trust in God*

J.S. Bach

\*Special thanks to our Lector, Jim Buell.

\*The altar flowers were given by Rochelle Potter in celebration of Danny Potters Birthday.

### **This Weeks Schedule:**

#### **Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:10 am – Church Choir

10:30 am – Worship

10:30 am – Congregational Meeting during service

5:00 pm – Adult Handbells

5:00 pm – HCY

6:00 pm – Church Choir

*Office Closed Thursday & Friday*

*November 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> for the*

*Thanksgiving Holiday*

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