

10 P.M. SERVICE



The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist

(831) 708-2278 125 Canterbury Drive Aptos CA 95003
www.st-john-aptos.org



The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve
December 24, 2023

Welcome to St. John's!

- **Restrooms** are located on both ends of the building.
- **For prayer requests, email prayer@st-john-aptos.org** (routes to a group of 40+ parishioners who will pray for your request immediately upon receipt of the message.)

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Rite II from the Book of Common Prayer (1979)

† The Liturgy of the Word †

Welcome Music

Performed by St. John's Hand Chime Choir.

Organ Prelude

Performed by William Visscher.

Introit: Come Ye, My People/ Ev'ry Valley Shall Be Exalted *George Frideric Handel*

Performed by Andrew Carter & William Visscher.

Opening Hymn: O Come All Ye Faithful

Hymnal 1982 #83

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "O Come All Ye Faithful". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with five numbered lines of text. The lyrics are: 1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O; 2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,; 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,; *4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,; *5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,.

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
 4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
 5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
 born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;
 Word of the Father,
 now in flesh appearing;

Opening Acclamation

EOW 1

Presider Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People You come to your people and set them free. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

Presider Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Gloria

The St. James Christmas Service

Sung to the tune of "Angels We Have Heard on High."



Glo - ry be to God on high,
Je - sus Christ, we now de - clare
Prai - ses to the Ho - ly One,



To all peo - ple, peace on earth, An - gels, shep - herds
Lamb of God and Lord of Love. Grant us mer - cy,
Prai - ses sing in high - est heav'n; To the Fath - er



draw - ing nigh, Join to ce - le - brate His birth.
hear our prayer, Give us grace from heav'en a - bove.
and the Son and the Ho - ly Spi - rit giv'n.



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o! in ex - cel - sis De o!

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray. (Silence.) We praise you, gracious God, for the glad tidings of peace, the good news of salvation: your Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory. Let the radiance of that glory enlighten the lives of those who celebrate his birth. Reveal to all the world the light no darkness can extinguish, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendor of eternal light, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
 on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,
 you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
 as with joy at the harvest,
 as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,
 and the bar across their shoulders,
 the rod of their oppressor,
 you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

 and all the garments rolled in blood
 shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
 a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
 and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
 and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
 He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
 from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

A bell is rung. We wait until we cannot hear the residual of the bell ringing before continuing.

Psalm 96

Glory to God #639

The congregation sings the refrain; the cantor sings the verses.



Refrain:

O sing a new song to the Lord;



sing to the Lord; sing all the earth.

- 1 O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth!
Sing to God and praise God's name. Refrain
- 2 Proclaim God's salvation day by day;
tell of God's glory among the nations.
And God's marvels to all the people. Refrain
- 3 The Lord is great and worthy of all praise,
to be feared more than all gods;
all other gods are merely idols. Refrain
- 4 For the Lord made the heavens!
O the splendor and majesty of God's presence!
O the power and beauty of God's temple! Refrain
- 5 Let the heavens be glad; let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all its creatures;
be glad, you fields, and all your fruit. Refrain
- 6 Shout for joy, all trees of the woods,
at the presence of God, who now comes,
who comes to judge the earth with right and the people with truth. Refrain

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

A bell is rung. We wait until we cannot hear the bell ringing before continuing.

Gospel Anthem: Ave Maria

Franz Biebl

Performed by St. John's Choir

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-20

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Deacon The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon: The Rev. Eliza Linley, Interim Pastor

The Nicene Creed

English Language Liturgical Consultation (ELLC), EOW 53

All We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People for Christmas

Feasting on the Word Advent Companion

Deacon: Let us pray for the world in which the Prince of Peace took flesh and form, saying, “Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.”

Intercessor: We give you thanks, Holy One, for the light that has come into the darkness of our world, for the truth illuminated, for the pathway that has opened, for the rejoicing of your people.

People: **Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.**

Intercessor: We give you thanks for the feet of those who bring good news, friendship, comfort, food, shelter, and medicine for healing.

People: **Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.**

Intercessor: We give you thanks for the church of Christ Jesus and for all people of faith whose attention to the way of peace tears down walls that keep us apart.

People: **Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.**

Intercessor: We give you thanks for this country and for every nation where wisdom reigns, where leaders work for the well-being of the poor, so that no one is hungry or homeless, and every child is valued and nourished.

People: **Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.**

Intercessor: We pray for the knowledge and courage to be good stewards of all that you have given us: ourselves, our neighbors, the strangers among us, the oceans and rivers, the air and soil, creatures large and small, that we may continue to be blessed with health and life.

People: **Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.**

Intercessor: We pray for those whose flesh is harmed by poverty, sickness, and cruelty of any kind, that the Word-made-flesh may so fill your world with the power to heal that all people would be made strong and whole.

People: **Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.**

Presider: We commend all these things to you and offer our thanksgiving, trusting that what we have left unsaid, your holy wisdom can unearth; in the name of the One who came among us in the power of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Church of England

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence, to allow time for individuals to silently confess specific sins to God.

All **Eternal God, giver of light and grace, we have sinned against you and against our neighbor, in what we have thought, and in what we have said and done, through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us. We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light. Amen.**

Absolution

EOW 1

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Because the sharing of the peace symbolizes being reconciled with one another before receiving communion, it is particularly appropriate to seek out anyone with whom you may have had a conflict recently and offer a sign of peace at this time.

Welcome to Visitors

† The Holy Communion †

The Offertory

During the offertory portion of the service, we offer our gifts to God. At St. John's, that takes the form of both financial gifts and gifts of our time. Time donated is documented on a form and put in the offering plate along with financial offerings. If you're participating online, you can find links to donate on the Virtual Worship page of our website: www.st-john-aptos.org/virtual-worship.html

Offertory Anthem: All Bells is Paradise

John Rutter

Sung by the St. John's Choir.

Presentation Hymn: In the Bleak Midwinter, v. 4

Hymnal 1982 #112 vs. 4

The Presentation Hymn is sung as the usher brings the offerings up to the altar.

4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Eucharistic Prayer 3

EOW #3

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

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

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Sanctus

arr. Andrew Carter

Sung to the tune of "Angels from the Realms of Glory."

Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lo - rd God of Pow - er God of might

Hea'vn and earth are fu - ll of your Glo - - - ry

Ho - sa - na Ho - sa - na, Ho sa - na in the High - est

Blessed is he who com - es in the name of the, of the Lord

Blessed is he who com - es in the na - me of the, of the Lord

Ho - sa - na Ho - sa - na, Ho sa - na in the High - est

Presider Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

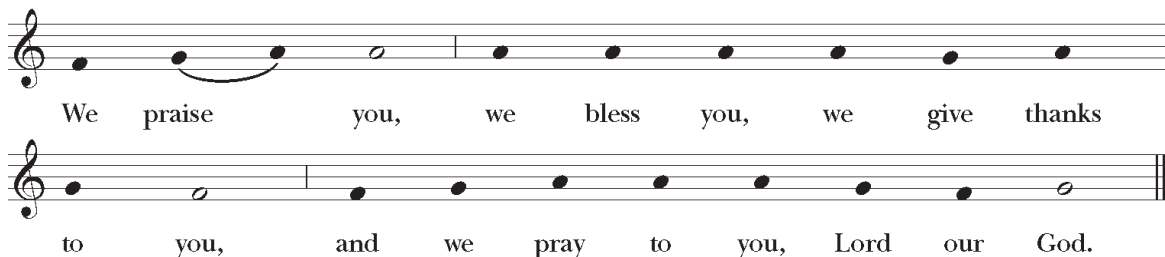
After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and

ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Memorial Acclamation

Hymnal 1982 #S-140



We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks
to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

Presider Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Great Amen

Hymnal 1982 #S-147



A - men. A - men. A - men.

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal 1982 S-149

Presider As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now sing,

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in
hea - ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who
sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of trial,
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow - er,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

The Fraction Anthem

Hymnal 1982 S-172

Antiphon

Cantor; then All

Bles - sed are those who are called to the Sup - per of the Lamb.

Cantor

Praise the Lord, all you nations; laud him, all you peo - ples.

For his loving - kindness toward us is great, and the

14 faithfulness of the Lord endures for ev - er. [Ant.]

Invitation to Communion

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Receiving communion is an act of renewing one's commitment to Christ and receiving grace to continue to follow him. Please join us in the circle, even if you choose not to receive communion, which you can indicate by crossing your arms over your chest as the servers come by. If you choose not to receive, the priest will say a blessing over you instead.

Distribution of Communion

The bread is distributed first. Please hold out your hands to indicate your desire to receive; the priest will place the bread in your hand. Gluten-free wafers are available if needed; they are in a separate gold container on the paten (plate) with the bread.

The wine will be served in the common cup (chalice) and from a flagon (pitcher) that is not shared with others. To receive from the non-shared flagon, you must have brought a cup from home; hold out that cup as the servers come around so they can see that you would like to receive from the flagon instead of the chalice. If you would like to abstain from the wine entirely, cross your arms over your chest when the wine comes by.

For Online Participants: Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Those not physically present to receive communion can say this prayer while communion is being distributed: "In union, O Lord, with the faithful of St. John's, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen."

If you live in Santa Cruz County and would like someone to bring you communion at home, please contact the church office at 831-708-2278 or email LEVs@st-john-aptos.org.

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Communion Hymn: What Child is This

Hymnal 1982 #115

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for
 peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds

guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to

bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

Communion Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Hymnal 1982 #56



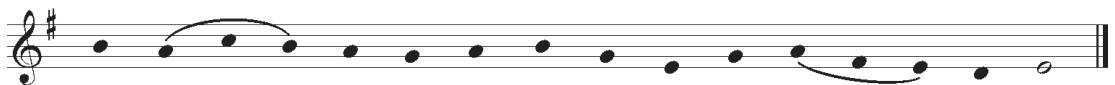
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Post-Communion Hymn: Silent Night

Hymnal 1982 #111

Hand-held candles will be distributed after communion. Please remain in the communion circle to sing Silent Night by candlelight.



Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP 365

All Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Christmas Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him,
bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin,
and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. Amen.

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth,
fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. Amen.

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven,
give you his peace and favor. Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen

Closing Hymn: Joy to the World

Hymnal 1982 #100

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vor reigns; let us our
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, with the first system containing three numbered lines of text.

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
peat the sound - ing joy,
won - ders of his love,

Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Hallelujah Chorus

George Frideric Handel

Serving Today at 10:00 p.m.

Presider & Preacher:

The Rev. Eliza Linley, Interim Pastor

Music:

Andrew Carter, Director of Music Ministries

Organ:

William Visscher

Acolyte:

Chris Rowen

Hebrew Scripture:

John Melvin

Epistle:

Jane Dawson

LEM/ Psalm Leader:

Brian Raney

Intercessor:

Barbara Raney

Altar Guild:

Kathy Butler, Lise Crowley, Andrew Pudan