9:00 a.m. ***Early Service*** *January 14, 2018*

Entering God's Presence *Cello Sonata* No. 1 - Op. 38 (1st movement) J. Brahms
Noah Barnhart, cello

****Surely the Presence of the Lord*** (Sing twice) Lanny Wolfe

Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

*Expressing Our Joy

Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
People: The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
Leader: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!
People: "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!"
Leader: Your face, Lord, do I seek. Do not hide your face from me.
People: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
Leader: Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage;
People: Wait for the Lord! (Psalm 27)

*Song 37 (Green Songbook) ***For the Music of Creation*** NETTLETON

Invitation to Self-Examination and Confession of our Need for God's Forgiveness (unison)

Loving God, in mystery and grace you sustain us, though we do not often recognize the full extent of your care. We confess that our worries consume our attention, that we put our material needs first, and that too often we remain numb to our spiritual hunger. Jesus has told us that if we seek material things before our spiritual treasure, our priorities are wrong. God, forgive us. Set us free from anxiety, and give us a new trust in your ability to care for us.

Time of Silence and Personal Confession

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Life in the Community

*Hymn 422 (Blue Hymnal) ***God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*** BEACH SPRING

Psalm 105:1-8 (NRSV) [You will find the text on page 525 in the pew Bible.]

Cello solo *Prelude* (from *Cello Suite* No. 2, BWV 1008) J.S. Bach
Noah Barnhart, cello

Matthew 25:31-40 (NRSV) [You will find the text on page 27 in the pew Bible.]

Sermon ***Surprising Good News*** The Rev. Vance E. Polley

Dedicating Our Lives, Gifts, and Tithes

(You are invited to bring your offering to God forward and place it on the Communion Table at the front of the sanctuary. You may come down the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisles.)

Offertory

*Song 219 (Green Songbook) ***We Give You Thanks*** (Sing twice) LOCKWARD

We give you thanks. We give you praise.
For you are kind, you are love, you are God!
We give you thanks.

*Prayer of Dedication, concluding with the *The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Hymn 442 (Blue Hymnal) ***The Church's One Foundation*** (vs. 1-4) AURELIA

*Blessing

Going Out into the World *Etude No. 6* David Popper
Noah Barnhart, cello

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*All those that are able, please stand.

Noah Barnhart is currently a senior in the Honors Orchestra at Wando High School. He has been playing the cello for nine years, starting in the fifth grade and plans to attend Belmont University next year. He will be pursuing a degree in Music Performance.