

9:00 a.m.

Early Service

January 7, 2018

*Welcome to the Early Service. Together, may we rejoice and give thanks for God's loving grace in Christ Jesus our Lord. You will find the worship songs for this service in the green songbook, **Sing! A New Creation** and the blue **Presbyterian Hymnal**.*

Entering God's Presence

***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: Who are you?

People: I am a child of God.

Leader: Who are we?

People: We are children of God, the family of faith.

Leader: What does it mean to be children of God?

People: We belong to God who loves us and calls us God's own.

*Song 8 (Green Songbook)

Gather Us In

GATHER US IN

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

Forgive us, God, for thinking we have it all figured out. We pretend we know who is "in" and who is "out" of your family, as if your care was not intended for all of us. We have wandered far from your covenant, overlooked your miracles, and refused to walk in your ways. Help us to choose to keep your commandments because we see their value in helping us grow in love of you, our neighbors, and even ourselves.

Time of Silence and Personal Confession

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Life in the Community

*Hymn 521 (Blue Hymnal)

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

FINEST WHEAT

I Samuel 8:4-8 (NRSV) [You will find the text on page 239 in the pew Bible.]

Romans 12:3-8 (NRSV) [You will find the text on page 151 in the pew Bible.]

Meditation

Leadership of Caring

The Rev. Vance E. Polley

Response to God's Grace: Dedicating Our Lives, Gifts, and Tithes

Offertory

(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.)

*Song No. 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

The Lord's Supper

(All who are baptized are invited to share in *The Lord's Supper*. Please come forward and have a seat on the front pew. Communion is served by intinction, taking a piece of bread and then dipping it in the cup. The wafers in the small basket are gluten-free.)

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer after Communion

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 525 (Blue Hymnal)

Here I Am, Lord

Daniel L. Schutte

*Blessing

*Going Out into the World

*All those who are able, please stand.