

# ORDER OF SERVICE

Sunday, January 1, 2023 • 10:00 AM



## PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty Father, in the glorious incarnation of your Son, Jesus Christ, you have sent a new light into the world; give us grace, that we may so receive the same light into our hearts as to be guided by it into the way of everlasting salvation, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## PRELUDE

Linda Clugston, organ

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Neil Trainer

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Janet Peterson

*One:* God of the past, who has created and nurtured us,

*All:* **we are here to thank and praise you.**

*One:* God of the future, who is always ahead of us,

*All:* **we are here to thank and praise you.**

*One:* God of the present, who is here in the midst of us,

*All:* **we are here to thank and praise you.**

*One:* God of life, who is beyond us and within us,

*All:* **we rejoice in your glorious love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

## HYMN #151, vs. 1, 2, 4 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Emily Mitchell

**God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people.**

**We confess our sin hides the light of your presence from ourselves and from others.**

**We have intentions to follow your will, but our habits follow the course of least resistance.**

**While we make many resolutions, we fall short of being faithful.**

**This New Year is a symbol of a fresh start; we confess our need for new beginnings, and we trust your promise of forgiveness. According to your mercies that are new every morning, cleanse us of our sin.**

**In your grace, baptize us once again with your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may display your glory revealed in Jesus Christ, through whom we continue to pray. *(silence for reflection)***

## 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

## PASSING THE PEACE

*One:* The peace of Christ be with you.

*All:* **And also with you.**

## DOXOLOGY

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Emily Mitchell

## OFFERING

## SCRIPTURE READINGS Matthew 26:26–29; 1 Corinthians 11: 23–29

Janet Peterson

## SERMON "A New Meal"

Neil Trainer

## SONG OF RESPONSE "Behold the Lamb"

## SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Emily Mitchell

## HYMN #280, vs. 1–5 "Amazing Grace"

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

Linda Clugston, organ

## Happy New Year!

*Oh, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose years never fail and whose mercies are new each returning day: let the radiance of your Spirit renew our lives, warming our hearts and giving light to our minds, that we may pass into the new year in joyful obedience and firm faith; through him who is the beginning and the end, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

— The Collect for New Year's Eve from the Episcopal Book of Occasional Services, 1994



*Below is a repeat from the Stories of Faith column from the Friday, November 4th email.*

## Listening for God's Word

// by Don Belcher

*Isaiah 55.11 ...so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*

In 1982 when our daughter Wendy was 20, a junior in college, she returned to Ghana, her childhood home, as a volunteer with Wycliffe Bible Translators. She wrote about her experience in *Honey from the Lion: An African Journey* (1988). It includes this visit by her African pastor before returning to America.

Pastor Abraham spoke to me then, in English, beginning with a quote from the bible, Isaiah 55.1, which states, "Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters." Ho is a word commonly used in Ghana, and at first, I thought Pastor Abraham was paraphrasing the quotation.

Later, when I looked the reference up, I saw for myself that it led the verse – bold as a shout.

Where Pastor Abraham came from, he told me, there were "big woods." When Pastor Abraham called someone by name in these woods, "he wouldn't hear me." The woods were too thick, the sound overcome. "No, if I want to be reaching him, I call Ho." Only the pure, single note would a person hear.

Isaiah started this verse with Ho, Pastor Abraham continued, because the people he spoke to were at a distance. They had wandered too far away to hear. Pastor Abraham paused then, making sure I understood this point before he went on.

"Christ is God's Ho," he explained, as his speech began to flow. "He is a sound so pure; he is a sound so righteous; he is a sound so powerful we can hear him even in the big woods where we are lost, far from God, woods so big that we are not hearing our own names. That is why God sent us his own name. Because we could not hear anything else. This name we hear calling us to him, calling out of the deep woods, calling us to the deep waters. There we will hear our names, and we will lie down and we will drink and we will never be thirsty again."

"In the place where you are going, there may be big woods. There may be many voices. There may be much confusion. But you must always be listening. Listen for God's Ho. For in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And neither is that word beyond the sea, but it is very near you, it is in your mouth and in your heart." We sat without stirring. Throughout this speech his eyes did not leave mine, and I did not

break our gaze when it ended. I felt rooted, anchored in stillness. Then Pastor Abraham nodded and settled back, his mission accomplished.

Philippians 4:8 *Whatever is lovely...and worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.*

Love and blessings,  
Sheila and Don Belcher

## Office Closed Tomorrow

Staff will be on holiday on Monday, January 2nd. The church office will be open for business as usual on Tuesday.

## Messy Church this Wednesday

You are warmly invited to come to Messy Church on the first Wednesday of 2023 – January 4th from 5:30 to 7 pm in the Activity Center. The values of Messy Church are:

- all ages,
- Christ-centered,
- hospitality,
- creativity, and
- celebration.

A simple supper is included. This is a great service to which you can invite your relatives, friends, and neighbors.



## Happy Birthday!

Alo Isahak ..... Jan. 01  
Jaiden Afrane ..... Jan. 07  
Ron Boyce ..... Jan. 07  
Rebecca McAndrew ..... Jan. 08  
Hilda Packard ..... Jan. 08  
Christine Stime ..... Jan. 09  
Anita Tanner ..... Jan. 09  
James Archer ..... Jan. 10  
Neysa Stanton ..... Jan. 10  
Cheryl Minnig ..... Jan. 11  
Eliza Miller ..... Jan. 12  
Victor Meniz ..... Jan. 14