

# KITCHEN TABLE GATHERING

CONNECT + PRAY + BE FED

---

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Water is life. Our bodies need water. This community needs water to be resilient and flourish. Plants and animals need water. Water is essential for all of life on this planet to thrive and flourish.

We need water for drinking, for washing, for cooking, for cleaning, for refreshing. Water sustains our lives, and water enhances our lives. Every day of our lives includes multiple uses of water.

In the snow and sleet that falls today, we are reminded of the power of water to disrupt, to overwhelm, to cause us to pause, to be still.

Let us give thanks for the gift of water and for baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for this water that comes to us as a gift from our Creator, the source of all that is good and life-giving. You are a generous and loving God who blesses us through water and who claims all people in the fullness of who we are made to be - in our sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, race, ethnicity, beyond our immigration status, beliefs, and abilities.

As we hear the water poured – let us remember the water from our homes, from wells and community water systems, water from nearby lakes and rivers, creeks and streams – water upon which all living creatures depend and that nourishes all of life on this planet.

O God, may we live as careful stewards, guardians of this precious gift, protectors of the health of this planet, builders of resilient communities, and cultivators of life-giving relationships that promote peace and unity.

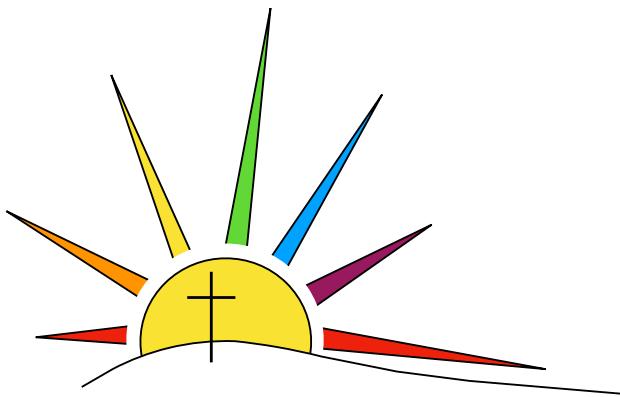
Thanks be to God! Amen!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of Beauty, you gather your beloved children into your care, each one a unique image of you. You claim us as your own and call us to follow in the ways of mercy, justice, and joy. Strengthen our changing hearts and minds to continue the work of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



## LISTENING TO THE WORD

*Isaiah 9:1-4*

Nonetheless, those who were in distress won't be exhausted. At an earlier time, God cursed the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but later God glorified the way of the sea, the far side of the Jordan, and the Galilee of the nations.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.

You have made the nation great;  
you have increased its joy.

They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest,  
as those who divide plunder rejoice.

As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened them,  
the staff on their shoulders,  
and the rod of their oppressor.

*Psalm 27:1, 4-9*

The Lord is my light and my salvation.  
Should I fear anyone?

The Lord is a fortress protecting my life.  
Should I be frightened of anything?  
I have asked one thing from the Lord—  
it's all I seek:

to live in the Lord's house all the days of my life,  
seeing your beauty  
and constantly adoring your temple.

Because you will shelter me in your own dwelling  
during troubling times;  
you will hide me in a secret place in your own tent;  
you will set me up high, safe on a rock.

Now my head is higher than the enemies surrounding me,  
and I will offer sacrifices in God's tent—  
sacrifices with shouts of joy!

I will sing and praise the Lord.  
Lord, listen to my voice when I cry out—  
have mercy on me and answer me!

Come, my heart says, seek God's face.

Lord, I do seek your face!

Please don't hide it from me!

Don't push your servant aside angrily—  
you have been my help!

God who saves me,  
don't neglect me!

Don't leave me all alone!

*Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2*

See what kind of love the Creator has given to us in that we should be called God's children, and that is what we are! Because the world did not recognize God, it does not recognize us. Dear friends, now we are God's children, and it hasn't yet appeared what we will be. We know that when God appears we will be like God because we'll see God as God is.

*Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23*

Now when Jesus heard that John was arrested, he went to Galilee. He left Nazareth and settled in Capernaum, which lies alongside the sea in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali. This fulfilled what Isaiah the prophet said:

Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,  
alongside the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles,  
the people who lived in the dark have seen a great light,  
and a light has come upon those who lived in the region and in the  
shadow of death.

From that time Jesus began to announce, “Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!”

As Jesus walked alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, because they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” he said, “and I’ll show you how to fish for people.” Right away, they left their nets and followed him. Continuing on, he saw another set of brothers, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee, their father, repairing their nets. Jesus called them and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues. He announced the good news of the kingdom and healed every disease and sickness among the people.

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ

## **MESSAGE**

## **PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

At this time, I invite you to take a moment and text one or two people a word of peace.

## OFFERING

We are living, breathing messages of God's love for the world. This is our work of faith and our labor of love and our steadfastness of hope in Jesus Christ. Like the earliest Christians, we are here in this place because of the commitment and faith and generosity of others who shared the good news of the gospel in their time. So we turn now, in our time, and share our faith and our commitment through generous giving to support the ministry of this church in Christ's name and to be a blessing to the world, shining our light wherever we go. Use the QR code provided to make an online offering to Epiphany.



## THE MEAL WE SHARE

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

As we gather together in this particular way by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the words closest to your heart.

*Heavenly God, giver of life,*

*holy is your name,*

*your blessed community*

*come, your will be done,*

*on earth as in heaven.*

*Give us today our daily*

*bread.*

*Forgive us our sins*

*as we forgive those who sin against us.*

*Save us from the time of trial,*

*and deliver us from evil.*

*For you reign in power and*

*glory now and forever.*

Amen.

God's love and grace abounds! The ordinary table becomes sacred space, daily bread and common drink serve to not only nourish our hunger but can remind us of the invitation Jesus makes to us in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Take a bite of what is in front of you. Take a drink from your cup. Remember Christ and his mercy for you. Remember God and the love poured out for you.

Let this small act we share remind us of the power of Christ's strength and know that you are kept in God's grace.

### **BLESSING**

May God's face shine upon us, God's love sustain us, and God's peace inspire us and grant us peace.

May God – Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer - fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may live in hope of a blessed community where humanity's diversity is celebrated.

Amen.

Go in peace. Christ is with you.