



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2020

Welcome to St. John

We are very pleased that you have joined us for worship today. If you are visiting for the first time, we have a welcome gift for you. We also appreciate any comments or suggestions that you may have. Thank you for coming today!

Holy Communion is celebrated weekly, and we offer guidance for those visiting in the following pages underneath the heading “Communion Distribution.”

Our bulletin is all you will need for worship this morning. We have inserted helpful information in *italics* including when, if able, to stand and sit. Congregation responses are in **bold**.

Children are welcome at St. John. We have worship activity bags located at each sanctuary entrance. All children are encouraged to come forward during Children’s Time. Our parents of children are welcome to use the Family Room at any time during worship—it is located in the Nursery School wing (upstairs). The room is open for families to use as needed for their children. We also have a baby changing station in the restroom by the main office. Please ask an usher if you have any questions.

Following our services, we will have beverages, cookies and conversation in our Great Room. We hope that you will join us and introduce yourself to others.

St. John Lutheran Church 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422
www.stjohnbluebell.org www.facebook.com/stjohnbluebell
Nursery School website: www.stjohnsns.com
610-277-1086

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Our Council Members are listed on our website.

Celebrating 250 years of mission and ministry, 1769-2019.



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Order for Worship

Prelude ~ "Show Me Thy Ways"

Quartet

Show me thy ways O Lord, teach me thy paths;
Lead me in thy truth and teach me:
For thou art the God of my salvation.
And on thee do I wait all the day.
Show me thy ways O Lord, teach me thy paths,
Lead me in thy truth.

Text: Psalm 25:4,5

Music: Walter L. Pelz

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Faithful God,

C: **have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

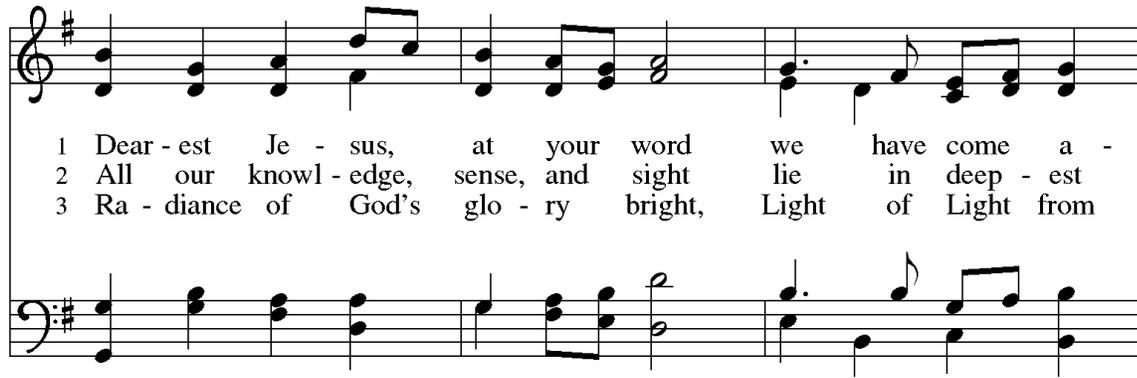
We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.
Hear the truth that God proclaims:
Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.
Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.

C: **Amen.**

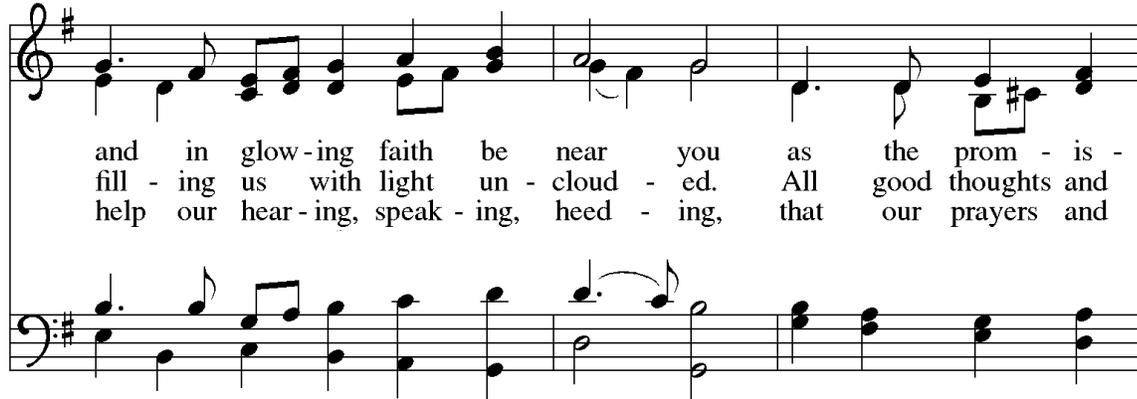
Gathering Hymn ~ “Dearest Jesus, at Your Word”



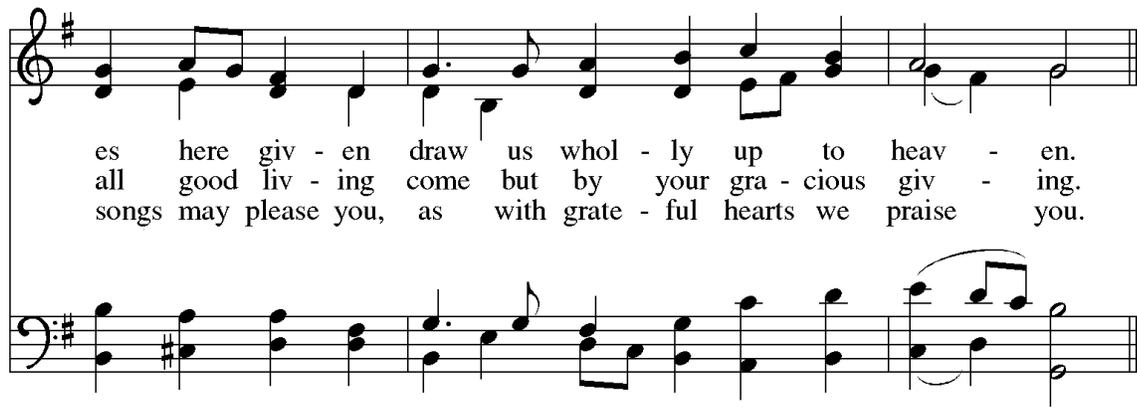
1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
 3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from



gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
 dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,
 God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;



and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
 help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and



es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
 songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684, sts. 1–3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt.
 Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

Greeting

P: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P: God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Children's Time

Word

Psalm 25

(Cantor, then ALL)

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is for the Cantor and the second for the All. The lyrics are: "To you, O Lord, to you, O Lord, I lift up, I lift up my soul." The music consists of simple quarter and eighth notes with lyrics underneath.

Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me Your paths.
Guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior.

Refrain.

God and upright is the Lord; thus He shows sinners the way.
The humble He guides to justice; He teaches the humble His way.

Refrain.

Kindness and constancy the paths of the Lord for those who keep cov'nant with Him.
The friendship of the Lord with those who revere Him,
His covenant for their instruction.

Refrain.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

A: If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you; the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

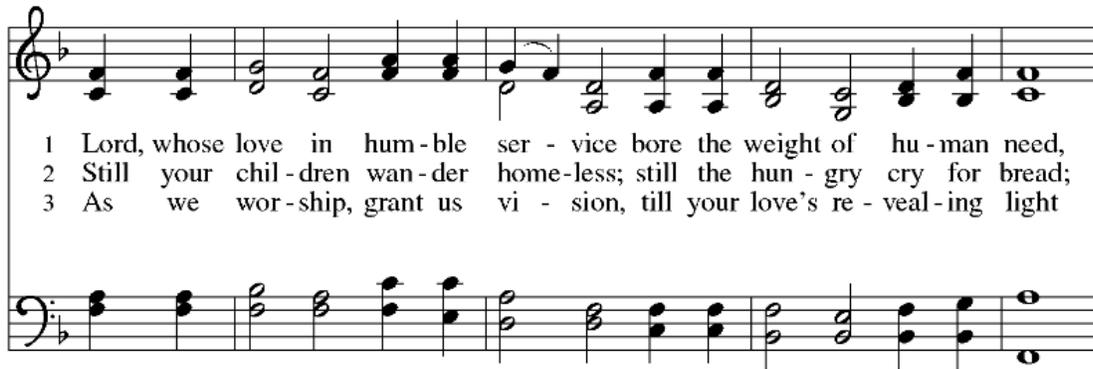
The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

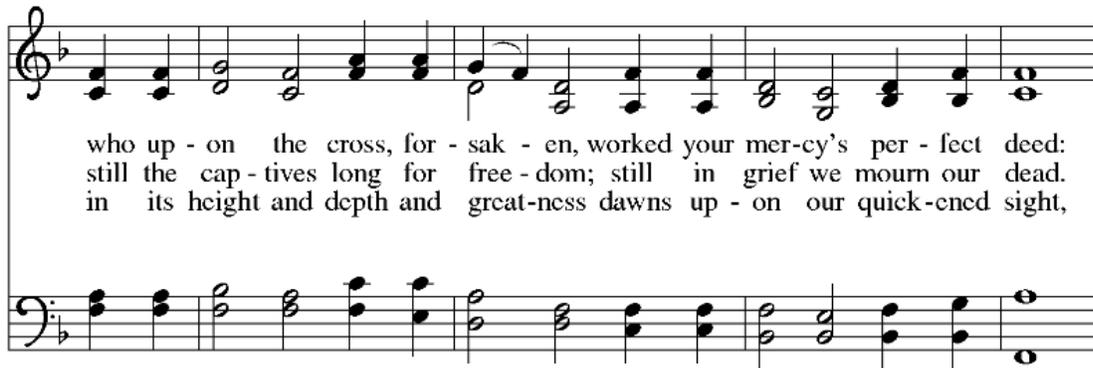
Homily

Silence for reflection follows the homily.

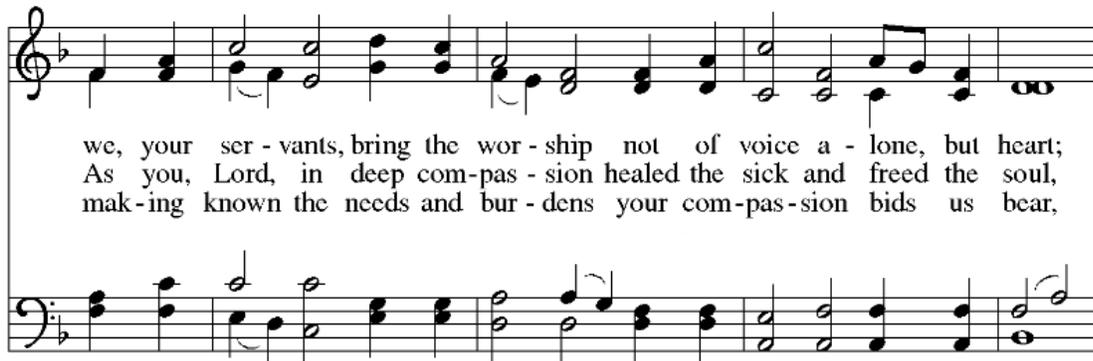
Hymn of the Day ~ "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"



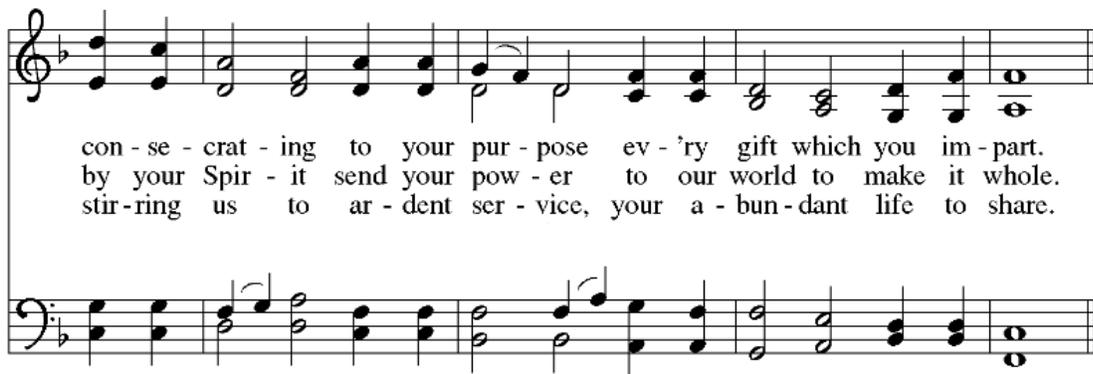
1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man need,
2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home - less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing light



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer - cy's per - fect deed:
still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great - ness dawns up - on our quick - ened sight,



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.

Apostles' Creed

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

A: Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

A: In all the world, give your church unity. Inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: Preserve and keep your creation, O God. Mend and redeem places that are polluted and damaged. Be with all facing severe conditions due to weather and storm and fire. Grant safety to all those responding to needs of so many in distress. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: Help our fractured nation find healing and unity. Give us new hearts and new spirits to help us see one another – with our hopes and dreams, our challenges and aspirations. Where sin permeates our culture and institutions, change our ways and teach us to trust your authority. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

- A: Our lives are yours, O God. Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit. Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. We pray for all those on our Prayer List: John, Martin, Jenny, Scott, Lisa, Adina, Kathy, John, Eric, Tom, Jack, Jon, Rob, Sue, Lauren, Bill, Dave, Gladys, Dylan, Randy, Dorothy, Judy, Jim, Gerry, Hadley, Robert, Abby, Laura, and Donna. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
- A: Guide our congregation in these times. May your Spirit be among us to encourage and enlighten as we consider our future. Bless our ministries of caring; make us into signs of your mercy and justice for our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
- A: Thank you for those who have gone into the kingdom ahead of us. By their witness, teach us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord in life and in death. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
- A: All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Peace

- P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: **And also with you.**

Anthem~ "Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love"

Quartet

Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
Name all other names above,
unto which must ev'ry knee bow in deep humility.

Jesus, Name of priceless worth to the fallen ones on earth
for the promise that it gave, "Jesus shall his people save."

Jesus! Name of mercy mild given to the holy child
when the cup of human woe first he tasted below.

Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
human name of God above; pleading only this we flee,
helpless, O our God, to thee.
Jesus, Jesus.

Music: John Ferguson

Text: William Walsham How, 1823-1897, alt.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

During our time away, we will not be passing the offering plates. We are grateful for all who are able to continue their support of St. John. There are three ways to share tithes and offerings:

1. Simply giving - You can arrange for a regular gift (weekly, monthly, quarterly) to be deducted from a bank account. Please contact Marcie Godby, our bookkeeper, to arrange for this (stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com).

2. You may go to St. John's website, <https://www.stjohnbluebell.org/>, and under "Quick Links" hit the "Online Giving and Donations" button.

3. You may put your offering envelope (checks are preferred) in another stamped envelope and mail it to St. John: 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422 (Attn: Marcie).

Take a moment and reflect on the gifts we have received – even in these difficult days.

Voluntary~ "Take Me As I Am"

Karen E. Black

Offertory Hymn ~ "Take, Oh Take Me as I Am"

Sung twice by All

The image shows a musical score for the Offertory Hymn "Take, Oh Take Me as I Am". It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Take, oh, take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be; set your seal up - on my heart and live in me." The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the third line. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell

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Offertory Prayer

- P: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C: **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
- C: **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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.**

Benediction

- P: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.
- C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn ~ "Voices Raised to You"

1 Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for
 3 Christ, the song of love in - car - nate, touch - ing earth with
 4 Spir - it, flam - ing through cre - a - tion, kin - dle faith with -

songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute
 heav - en's grace, for your liv - ing, suf - f'ring, dy - ing,
 in each heart. Lift our voic - es high in cho - rus;

for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!
 for your ris - ing, hear our praise! Al - le - lu - ia!
 through our hands your love im - part. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, re - deem - er, Lord of life!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Spir - it, help - er, breath of life!

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude ~ “Trumpet Tune on *Song of Praise*”

Jeffrey Blersch

Additional music links:

“At the Name of Jesus”

<https://youtu.be/KKDO0f-shPQ>

“Beach Spring Stomp”

<https://youtu.be/S8slsGsTSi8>

“Jesus Loves Me”

https://youtu.be/ZLj_bHTa3D4

Assisting with Worship

Bridge Pastor

Director of Music

Lector

Prayers of Intercession

Apostles’ Creed

Quartet

Pastor Stephen Godsall-Myers

Lawrence Baker

Phil Vande Berg

Carol Weidler

Jean Godsall-Myers

Deborah Swider, Maja Lisa Fritzhuspen,

Rob Laird, and Jonathan Oehler

