

**REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Serving Absecon - Galloway Township**  
**Rev. Heidi Link – Pastor**  
**Brian Conover - Music Director**

**Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD / 10:00 AM**

**\* THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

We give you thanks, holy and gracious God, for you created the waters of the earth: wide oceans, rushing streams, clear lakes, mighty rivers. (*Here particular bodies or sources of water may be named.*)

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

You led your people through the sea and called them to life in covenant with you. Your Son was baptized in the river Jordan to begin his mission among us. You pour out your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth. Through this water remind us of the gift of baptism. Renew us in your promise so that we may serve this world in all its need; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, who gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**\* OPENING SONG**

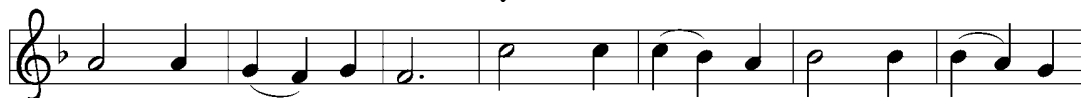
**Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-'ry  
3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er; let us all thy



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy  
trou-bled breast; let us all in thee in-her-it; let us  
life re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, nev-er -



faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion,  
find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of sin-ning;  
more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing,

*... song continues ...*

\* - Congregation Stands (If for any reason you are unable to stand during the service, please remain seated.)

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788  
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

**\* GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray: O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Exodus 24:12-18** *(see back of bulletin for text)*

**RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 2**

- <sup>1</sup>Why are the nations in an uproar?  
 Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?
- <sup>2</sup>**Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the LORD and against the LORD's anointed?**
- <sup>3</sup>"Let us break their yoke," they say;  
 "let us cast off their bonds from us."
- <sup>4</sup>**God whose throne is in heaven is laughing;  
 the LORD holds them in derision.**
- <sup>5</sup>Then in wrath God speaks to them,  
 and in rage fills them with terror.
- <sup>6</sup>**"As for me, I have anointed my king  
 upon Zion, my holy mountain."**
- <sup>7</sup>Let me announce the decree of the LORD,  
 who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I begotten you.
- <sup>8</sup>**Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance  
 and the ends of the earth for your possession.**

*(psalm continues...)*

<sup>9</sup>You shall crush them with an iron rod  
and shatter them like a piece of pottery.”

<sup>10</sup>**And now, you kings, be wise;  
be warned, you rulers of the earth.**

<sup>11</sup>Submit to the LORD with fear,  
and with trembling bow in worship;

<sup>12</sup>**lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath.  
Happy are all who take refuge in God!**

**SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1:16-21** (*see back of bulletin for text*)

**\* HYMN OF PRAISE**

**I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me**



1 I'm so glad I'm so glad  
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,  
3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,



Je - sus lift - ed me. I'm so glad  
Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,  
When I was in trou - ble,



sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American spiritual

**\* THE WORD OF GOD: Matthew 17:1-9**

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew:

(*see back of bulletin for text*)

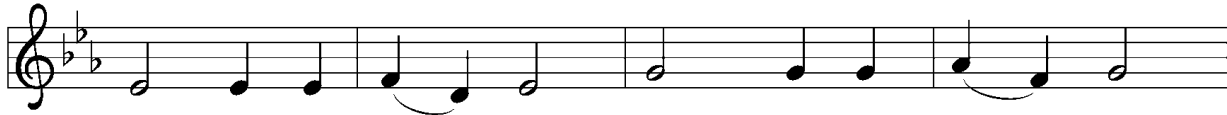
Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

## CONGREGATIONAL SONG

### Beautiful Savior



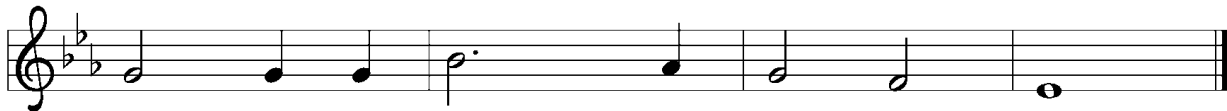
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!  
robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;  
bright the spar - kling stars on high;  
Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,  
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er  
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
than all the an - gels in the sky.  
now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904  
Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

### \* APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Embolden your church as it witnesses to the majesty and mercy of your Son. Equip lay preachers, deacons, and pastors. Move us to share our stories of your faithfulness and forgiveness; may our lives proclaim your greatness. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Dwell with your whole creation, from the tallest mountain peak to the deepest valley. Bless the work of conservation organizations and protect vital habitats (*locally threatened waters or lands may be named*). Support the work of disaster relief agencies around the world. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Guide and give wisdom to all in authority: our mayor (name) and local leaders, our governor (*name*) and state legislators, our president (*name*) and national legislators. Bring freedom and justice to all nations. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Give shelter to those lacking safe homes. Spur communities to work for fair housing for all. Protect our neighbors whose dwellings do not keep out dangerous cold or heat; accompany with your touch those who are homebound, sick, or isolated (*especially*).

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Make us eager to receive your Word in scripture. Help us recognize Jesus' voice in the needs of our neighbors; make us confident to follow the way of the cross. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Receive our thanksgiving for the holy ones who have guided us in faithfulness and gathered even the unlikely as your people. With our forebears in faith and all who have hoped in you, teach us to wait with courage until the promised day dawns. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

**Amen.**

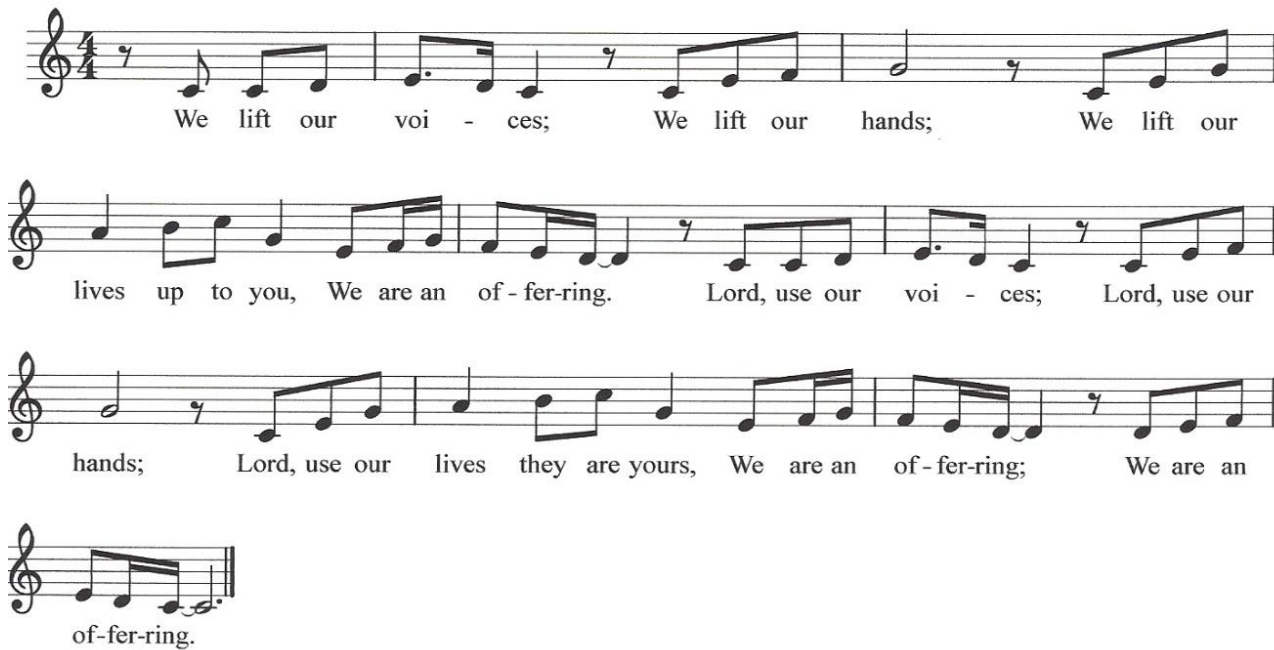
## \* SHARING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING / SPECIAL MUSIC

## \* OFFERING SONG



We lift our voi - ces; We lift our hands; We lift our  
lives up to you, We are an of - fer-ring. Lord, use our voi - ces; Lord, use our  
hands; Lord, use our lives they are yours, We are an of - fer-ring; We are an  
of - fer-ring.

## \* OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray: Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, **Amen.**

## \* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and salutary...*(Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the day or season, concluding:)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
 Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\* WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**\* 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 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**

**\* INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come and taste the joy of God!  
 We come.

**DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

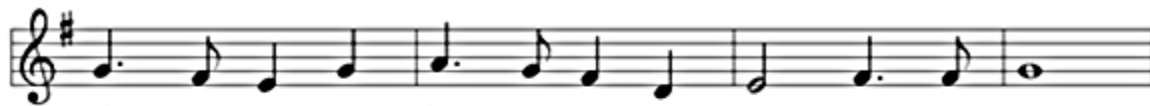
*(BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS who believe that the risen Christ is present in the Eucharist to forgive sin and renew life are invited to either come to the altar area for communion as directed or share at your pew. If you come forward, you will receive bread and a pre-filled cup of wine. If you choose to receive at your seat, please remain there, kneel as you are able, and receive the elements using the communion packets available from the ushers. If there are other special needs, please speak to an usher.)*

**\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
 Amen

**\* POST COMMUNION HYMN**

## Go, My Children, with My Blessing



3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.



Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here his ten - der com-fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

**\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

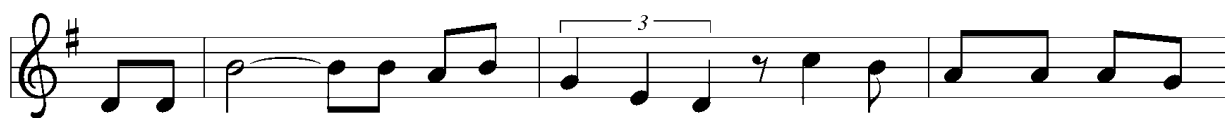
Let us pray: Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

**\* BLESSING**

And now a blessing: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod ✝ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

**\* CLOSING SONG**

## We Are Marching in the Light of God



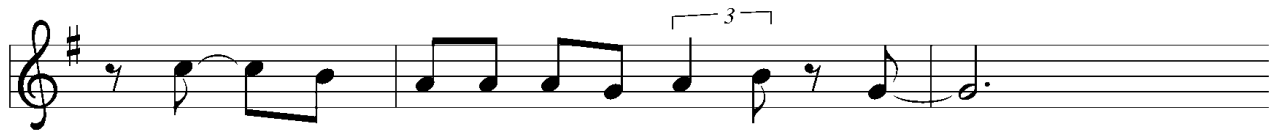
*Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen'kwen-khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -*  
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



*nyen'kwen-khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen'kwen-khos',*  
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,

*... song continues ...*

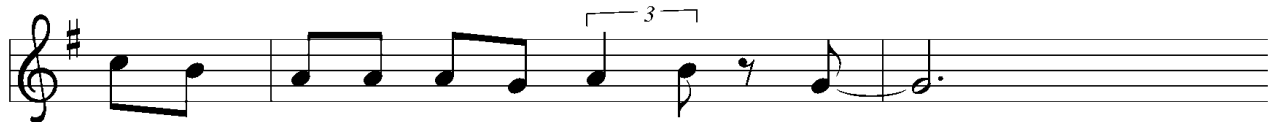




si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.  
we are march-ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo  
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.  
we are march-ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo  
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.  
we are march - ing in the light of God.

*Additional stanzas ad lib.:*

We are dancing ...  
We are praying ...  
We are singing ...

Text: South African traditional; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African traditional

Tr. © 1984 Utrveck. admin. Walton Music Corp.

## \* SENDING

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

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