

The Episcopal Church *of the* **Transfiguration**

Holy Eucharist
for the Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025
10:00 AM



The Mission of Church of the Transfiguration
is to be a Christian community;
accepting and inviting all persons to share in worship,
witness and service; as disciples of Jesus Christ in the world.

Dear Friends,

Advent is a time of watching and waiting for the birth of Jesus Christ into the world. We are reminded of his first coming in Bethlehem, and of his final coming when he shall judge the world with righteousness and mercy. We also remember that Jesus dwells with us in all our todays and tomorrows. Come, Lord Jesus!

Faithfully yours,
The Rev. Lu-Anne Conner

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

GATHERING HYMN

"Thy kingdom come!" on bended knee

Hymnal, #615

THE WORD OF GOD

THE PREPARATION

Please rise in body or in spirit. The Celebrant says

Celebrant Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God!**

Celebrant Dear friends in Christ, we come together in the midst of a busy season to take a breath: to slow down as we remember Jesus' coming to dwell among us, to recognize Jesus' presence with and among us now, and to anticipate Jesus' coming again in glory. We are invited for a time to breathe in together the life that God gives us, and to listen to the beating of God's heart. Let us take a few moments of silence to rest in God's presence.

A prolonged silence is kept.

Celebrant May Christ fill our parish, our homes, and our hearts with his peace this Advent season as we journey deeper into the mystery of God's amazing love for the world. **Amen.**

THE GREETING

Celebrant Blessed be the Holy One whose coming we await,

People **And blessed be the One who comes to set all people free. Amen.**

Then may be added

Celebrant In the tender compassion of our God

People **The dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

Celebrant To shine on those who dwell in the shadow of death,

People **To guide our feet into the way of peace.**

The Celebrant then says the Collect for Purity

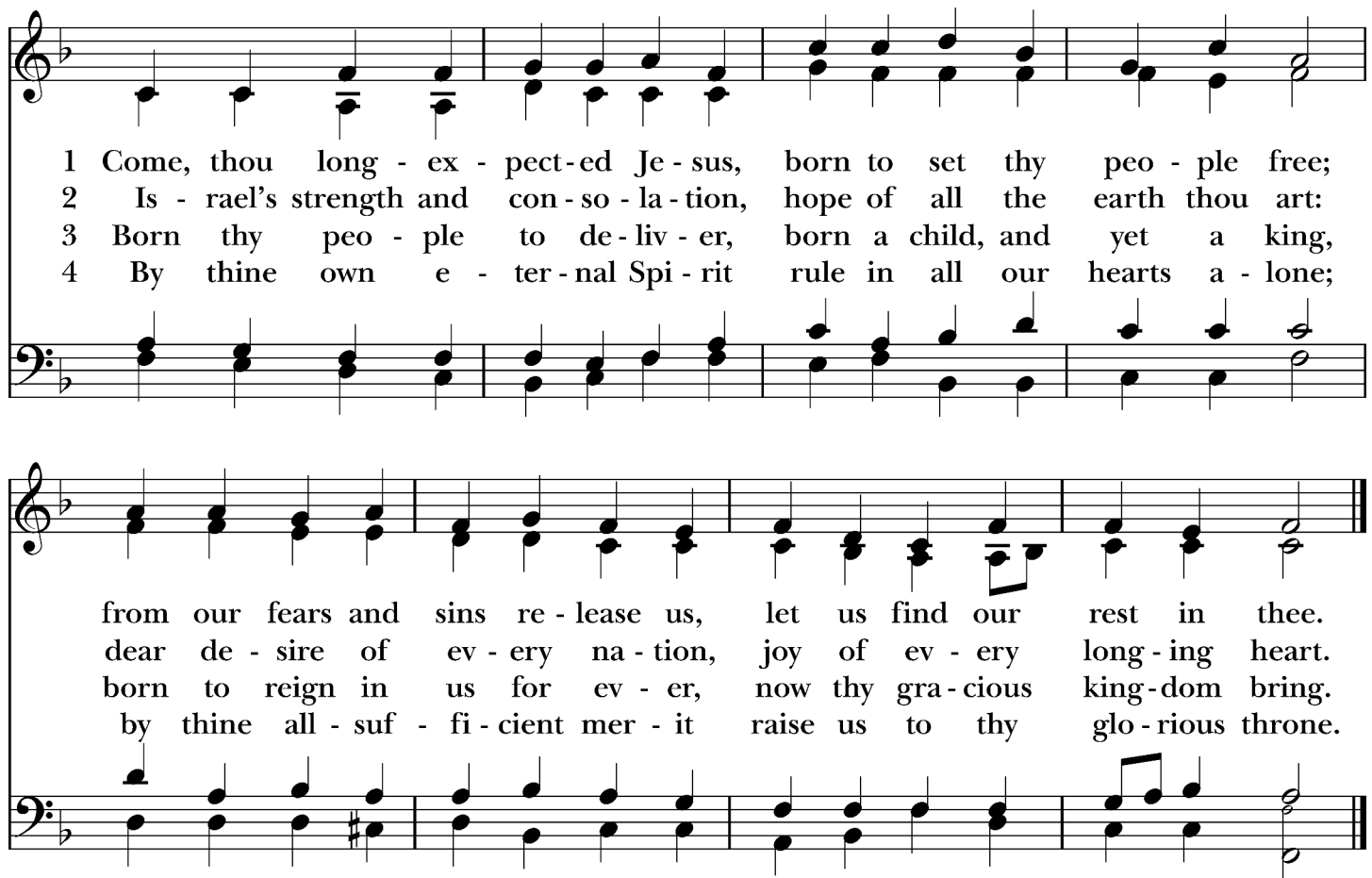
BCP, pg. 355

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE*Come thou long expected Jesus*

Hymnal, #66



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Stuttgart*, melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY WITH THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

BCP, pg. 212

As the Celebrant reads the Collect of the Day, the Advent Wreath Candles for the day are lit

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant Lord Jesus, we pray, give your light to our lamps, that in their light we may always see you and follow the path that you set before us.

People ***O Lord, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us. Amen.***

THE READINGS

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it,

but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,

nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there,

but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 146:4-9

Lauda, anima mea

BCP, pg. 803

- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The Lord loves the righteous;
the Lord cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- 9 The Lord shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF JAMES

5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise in body or in spirit.

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

11:2-11

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus

answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

After the Gospel the Celebrant says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

THE SERMON

The Rev. Lu-Anne Conner

THE NICENE CREED

BCP, pg. 358

Please rise in body or in spirit.

***We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.***

***We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.***

***On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.***

***We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.***

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR ADVENT

Leader O God whose Messiah's coming we await, keep us awake and alert to watch for the signs of your coming, responding to each petition by saying "Shine in our hearts."

Keep us awake and alert to our humble calling to be the church of Christ in the world. Empower all bishops, priests and deacons to proclaim justice and truth as they care for your holy people, especially Sean our Presiding Bishop, Deon our bishop, and Lu-Anne our rector.
Christ our hope;

People ***Shine in our hearts.***

Leader Keep us awake and alert to the needs and wants of the nations of the world. Enlighten the leaders of the nations to attend to the needs of the lowest and the least, the last and the left-out, that justice and peace may be our strength and equity our common good.
Christ our hope;

People ***Shine in our hearts.***

Leader Keep us awake and alert to the needs of the sick and suffering. Embolden our love that we may care with compassion for those in need. Give them to know of the healing care of Jesus. We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list: ***Karen, Joey, John, Maureen, Kathy, Kensie, Karen, Peggy, Laura, Barb, Bill, Papa, Lisa, Virginia, Kathleen, Lisa, Brad, Patrick Elizabeth, William, Steve, Jerry, Toni, Lisa, Megan & John, Dillon, Regina, Penny, Bob, Carolyn, Ruth, Janet, Rosemary, Christina, Betty, Shirley, Kathy, Roger, John, Sandra, Margene, Kathy, Stephen, Mary, David, Sherry, and Jack.***

Are there others?

Silence is kept for a time.

Christ our hope;

People **Shine in our hearts.**

Leader Keep us awake and alert to the needs of friends and strangers. Energize this community of faith to reach out with compassion to transform our neighborhoods and communities to reflect the beloved community of peace. Christ our hope;

People **Shine in our hearts.**

Leader Keep us awake and alert to those who mourn, those who grieve and those who are despondent or depressed. Enable us to be Christ's hands of healing and wholeness that we may be agents of comfort and hope. Christ our hope;

People **Shine in our hearts.**

Leader Keep us awake and alert to the shortness of our time. Enfold those who have ended their course on earth and have joined the martyrs and saints in the region of light. May we, in our own time, come to the joys of your eternal reign.

Christ our hope;

People **Shine in our hearts.**

Leader In our parish cycle of prayer, we pray for those who host and serve our guests at Third Tuesday this week and for all who come to be fed with lunch and fellowship. May all who participate in Third Tuesday be blessed to be a blessing to each other and take your love out into the world with them.

In the diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for the people and ministry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Ironton and Richard, their Vicar.

In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for Hogar Cristo Rey - María de los Ángeles Cotto.

We give thanks for birthdays: Kerry Quinlisk; and anniversaries: Doug Reinhard and Sr. Donna Ruth Hawk-Reinhard.

The Celebrant offers a concluding prayer.

Celebrant Shine forth O God of Hosts, encourage, embolden and energize your people to keep awake and alert to the coming of Jesus the Christ, that he, when he comes again in glory, may find us already serving those in need; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and people

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

The Celebrant says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord

BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

The Celebrant says an offertory sentence.

An offering plate will not be passed at this service. You are invited to leave your gift in the offering plate in the Narthex on the Welcome Table as you depart today's service. We are grateful for your generous and ongoing support of the ministries of Transfiguration Church.

OFFERTORY HYMN

The Lord will come and not be slow

Hymnal, #462

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Tune: Old 100th

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

BCP, pg. 367

Please rise in body or in spirit. The Celebrant says

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name.

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

***We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;***

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

BCP, pg. 364

Celebrant and People

***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,
for ever and ever. Amen.***

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP, pg. 364

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Then the following is said

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People ***Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are welcome to receive the bread and wine of the Eucharist, or a blessing if preferred. Please note that you may drink directly from the chalice – we do not allow self-intinction. If you do not wish to drink from the chalice you may simply return to your seat after receiving the bread. Please wait for the Usher to release the section where you are seated.

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION *(while those present are coming forward to receive the bread, a leader addresses those who are watching the livestream feed)*

Leader: The Resurrected Christ has gathered us to feast at the Table of Remembrance, yet circumstances make it difficult for some to gather physically around Christ's altar and receive Christ's eucharistic body. Wherever you are, you are offered God's grace by spiritually receiving Christ in your heart.

Please pray with me *(prayed by those who are watching the livestream feed)*

In union, O Lord,
with the faithful of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated,
I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving.
I present to you my soul and body
with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you.
And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart.
I unite myself with you and embrace you with all the love of my soul.
Let nothing ever separate you from me.
May I live in you, and may you live in me,
both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER *(said by all)*

BCP, pg. 366

Please rise in body or in spirit. The Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.**

THE ADVENT BLESSING

Celebrant May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Blest be the King whose coming

Hymnal, #74

ADVENT DISMISSAL

Celebrant As we await our coming Savior, go in peace to shine as Christ's presence in the world.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Ministers of Worship

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Lu-Anne Conner
Lay Minister of the Day	Jan Munro
Usher	Sandy Taliaferro
Lector	Susan McMillan
Acolyte	Mary Ellen Antonio
Chalice Bearer	Pam Fadler
Musician	Jackie Goen
Altar Guild	Louise Howden Susan McMillan
Coffee Hour	Greg Barnett Sandy Rafferty
Counters	Jennie Kelly Kerry Quinlisk
Videographer	John Notgrass

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Weeks 1-3, The prayer for Love and Light is an adaptation of Paul C. Stratman's translation of a 6th century Collect from his *Prayers of the Ancient Celtic Church*. Used with permission.

The Invitation to and Prayer of Spiritual Communion takes its central meaning from the Order of Service for the Renewal of Baptism and Ordination Vows, and the Blessing of the Oils Service from March 30, 2021 by the dioceses of Kansas, Western Kansas, Missouri, West Missouri, the Central States Synod of the ELCA and Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral, and is adapted by Rev. Dr. Marshall Crossnoe.

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Hymn selections are from The Hymnal 1982 and other approved sources.

Hymns/songs are printed in the bulletin under RiteSong.