

## Bearing the Word in the World

### \*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord, we sometimes wonder why you bother with us.  
Throughout history, you have called to humankind to be your witnesses.  
you have given to each a special blessing.  
But the historical record reveals the stubborn,  
selfish responses of your people.  
We think that we deserve your blessing and don't have to do your will.  
We have acted in wicked ways far too often.  
Christ has given his life for us.  
Now we are called to give our lives for him,  
to offer to all the good news that God's love is real and powerful.  
God's healing mercy is for all people.  
We offer our prayers for our families  
and our friends who are in situations of need,  
asking God's blessings upon them.  
We raise our voices in choruses of pleading  
for you to be present to all your people, creating pathways of peace.  
Be with us, gracious Lord.  
Help us to witness to the world,  
not only by our words and our thoughts,  
but by our actions so that your peace may be known.  
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

\*Hymn No. 353..... "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

### \*Charge and Benediction

#### Acolyte Takes the Light of Jesus into the World


Sing Hymn No. 701 [x2] ..... "Sanctuary" as the Acolyte takes the light of Jesus into the world:

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried, and true.  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

Postlude ..... "My Tribute" [Andrae Crouch]

#### Love & Prayers of the Congregation

Church Family: The Collins + Coleman Families – passing of Debbie's Mother - Laura Coleman, The Graff Family, Vicky Tysor & Family, Pat Cosby, Wanda Burger, Andrew Mackie, Jane Riley, Bob Prescott, Barbara Fulp, Mary Ellyn Humiston, Sherry Berman, Linda Habershaw | Military & Their Families: Andrew Reece (Son of BD & Tiffany Reece)

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Sunday, May 12, 2024

## Gathering Around the Word

*\* Please stand as you are able*

### Music for Gathering

**Welcome and Announcements** ..... Andrew Mackie

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also, with you.**

**Moment for Mission** ..... Lynn Thompson Bryant

**Prelude** ..... "Lily of The Valley" [Charles W. Fry]

**Acolyte Enters with the Light of Christ** ..... Issac Libbert

*Please take this moment to center yourself and prepare for worship.*

## We Gather in the Presence of the Triune God

### \*Call to Worship

Jesus prayed for his disciples, giving them into God's eternal care.

**Jesus prays for us, giving us into God's care.**

Know that you have been blessed with the love of the Savior.

**We live in that love and seek to serve God.**

We open our hearts and spirits to hear God's word.

**May our lives be open to God's Spirit and reflect God's love. Amen.**

\*Hymn No. 267..... "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Let us hold before God all those whom Christ calls to follow him-  
**when faith is great and when faith is little;**  
**when faith is sure and**  
**when faith clings by its fingernails;**  
**when faith sees clearly and when faith feels lost;**  
**when faith reassures and when faith challenges;**

**Your Kingdom Come.**  
**Your will be done.**

**So that, among all people,**  
**joys may be celebrated and tears may be shed,**  
**all are welcomed, young and old, seeker and stranger,**  
**God’s Kingdom is both sought and lived,**  
**And the Good News of Jesus Christ**  
**is shared and proclaimed.**

Let us bring to God those conditions in which we long to see Christ reign:  
**where conflict is a reality and peace but a dream;**  
**where greed is honored and generosity is mocked;**  
**where injustice reigns and justice is trampled underfoot;**  
**where the wealthy are heard and the powerless are ignored;**  
**where people are discriminated against because of race, creed and gender.**  
**Where historic hate lives;**  
**where honest work is derailed or denied.**

**Your Kingdom Come.**  
**Your will be done.**

Give to us, O God,  
**A vision of your kingdom,**  
**a glimpse of your glory,**  
**and openness to your rule,**  
**and may your spirit to guide us.**  
**Hear us, we pray, through Christ,**  
**The risen and ascended one. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Gloria Patri No. 582** ..... *“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”*  
*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*  
*World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

**\*Sharing the Peace** [Greet those near you with expressions of peace and friendship]  
May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you.  
**And also, with you.**

**Passing the Peace** (Sing in Unison) ..... *“Let There Be Peace on Earth”*  
*“Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me. Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be. With God as our Father, family are we. Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony. Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now. With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow: To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally! Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.”*

**Time for the Young and the Young at Heart** .....Rev. Arlo  
[We invite all children to come to the front children’s pew.]

**\*Hymn No. 368**..... *“We Fall Down”*

**Listening for the Word**

**Scripture Readings: Psalm 93: 1-5** [Page 549] .....Andrew Mackie  
**Ephesians 1:15-23** [Page 192] .....Rev. Arlo  
The Word of the Lord | **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** ..... *“The Kingdom”* ..... Rev. Arlo

**Responding to the Word**

Offertory ..... *“Down to the River to Pray”* (Traditional Spiritual)

Offerings may be mailed to/dropped off at the Church Office or given electronically through PayPal-visit our website at [www.elkinpres.org](http://www.elkinpres.org) or scanning the QR code using phone camera.



**\*Doxology No. 606** (A Time to Praise God) ..... *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”*  
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;*  
*Praise him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*