

# Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Annual Congregation Meeting February 12, 2023 | 9:30 AM



**Everyone is welcome.** As people of God, St. John's welcomes all regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female." (Galatians 3:28) This is Christ's church, and Christ has bid you come.

**Guests are welcome.** We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. So that we may be in contact with you, we invite you to sign the guest book in the narthex. Our programs are open to all and you are invited to participate. We hope you will worship with us again soon.

**Children are welcome.** We encourage them to attend worship with their parents—even their noise and restlessness are surely a delight to God. Children's bulletins are available from the ushers.

**To assist you during worship**: Large print worship bulletins are available from the ushers. If you are unable to come forward for communion, please inform an usher and the pastors will be happy to commune you at your pew.

**Offerings**: St. John's is a tithing church. We dedicate a percentage of our offerings to the mission of the wider church through the NJ Synod of the ELCA and to many other mission partners. We are able to support these ministries because of your offerings and tithes.

**Assisted Listening:** To access assisted listening, Connect to the StJohnsALS WiFi network. Download the free WaveCast app to your phone. Tap ST\_JOHNS\_ALS to connect. Please use your own headphones to listen. Individual wired devices coming soon!





# Ministers: The People of Saint John's

# Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor
Vicar Naeem Harry, Intern
Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music cha
Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator
Jama Bowman, Communications Coordinator j
Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation
Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

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We're delighted you're worshiping with us. As part of our ongoing outreach, your voice and your image may be videographed and photographed and used by St. John's for ministry purposes. For any questions or concerns, contact the church office.

# **Prayer Before Worship**

God of blessing, you call us to be one with you and your creation in love, faithfulness, and truth. Help us to carry out the vows we make: to adore you with our whole heart, to live in mutual support of one another, and to love as if your reign has fully come. Amen.

From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 1

# Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

ELW Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Red Book
ACS All Creation Sings: Purple Book

**PRELUDE** Lullaby (Suite No. 2)

Calvin Hampton

#### WELCOME

Please stand.

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.** 

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

# Silence for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal, we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.** 

# **GATHERING HYMN** ELW 796 How Firm a Foundation



Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt. Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

#### APOSTOLIC GREETING

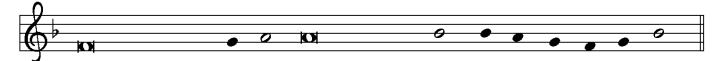
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.** 

# **KYRIE**

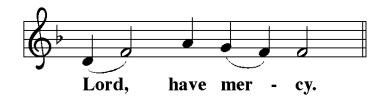


In peace, let us pray to the Lord.





For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.





For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of

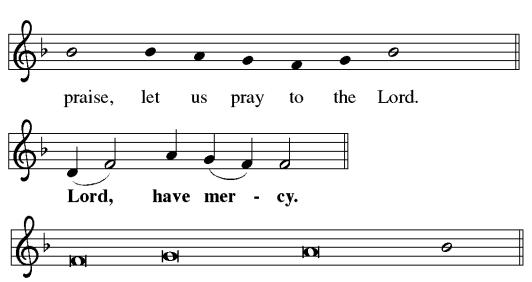


God, and for the uni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.





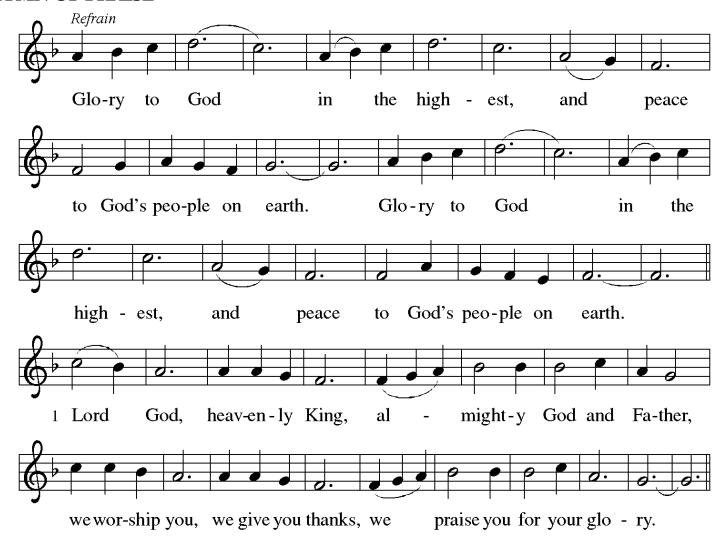
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.



# **HYMN OF PRAISE**

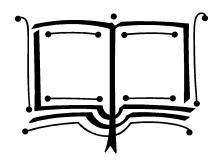






# PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 



#### Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 30:15–20

[Moses said to the people:] <sup>15</sup>See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.

St. John's Choir and the Children's Choir

# The choir introduces the antiphon and the assembly joins in singing thereafter.



Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \* from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, \*

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon God's Name; Antiphon

Make God's deeds known among the peoples; \*
see that they remember that God Name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord, for God has done great things, \*
and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \* for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel. *Antiphon* 

Isaiah 12:3-6: The First Song of Isaiah

# **SECOND READING** 1 Corinthians 3:1–9

<sup>1</sup>Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, <sup>3</sup>for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? <sup>4</sup>For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

<sup>5</sup>What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. <sup>6</sup>I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup>So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. <sup>8</sup>The

one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. <sup>9</sup>For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**





#### **GOSPEL** Matthew 6:24–34

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

<sup>25</sup>"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup>And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>28</sup>And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup>yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you — you of little faith? <sup>31</sup>Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' <sup>32</sup>For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup>But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup>"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

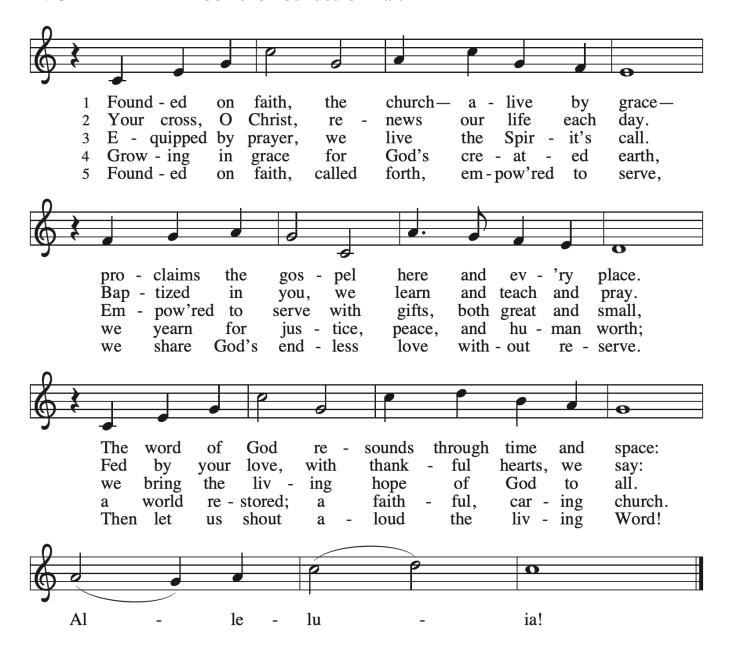
The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

**SERMON** 

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY** ACS 1048 Founded on Faith



Text: Paul D. Weber, b. 1949 Music: FOUNDED ON FAITH, Paul D. Weber Text and music © 2017 Paul D. Weber, admin. Augsburg Fortress

#### **APOSTLES' CREED**

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

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

O God, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, pastors, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and sacraments.

We pray for the whole creation;

That the earth may be renewed.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Bring healing to all who are sick;

That they may find comfort in you.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

#### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

Please be seated.

#### PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MISSION

#### **GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

We present offerings for God's mission through this congregation. Both visitors and members alike may use the pew envelope to make a contribution. If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org or scan this code.



# **OFFERING MUSIC** Grant Peace, We Pray

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Grant peace, we pray in mercy, Lord; In our time peace, oh, send us! For there is none on earth but thee, None other to defend us.

Thou only, Lord can fight for us. — Martin Luther

#### **OFFERTORY** ELW 185 Create in Me a Clean Heart



Music: Liturgy of Joy, James M. Capers, b. 1948 Music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

#### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.

#### Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

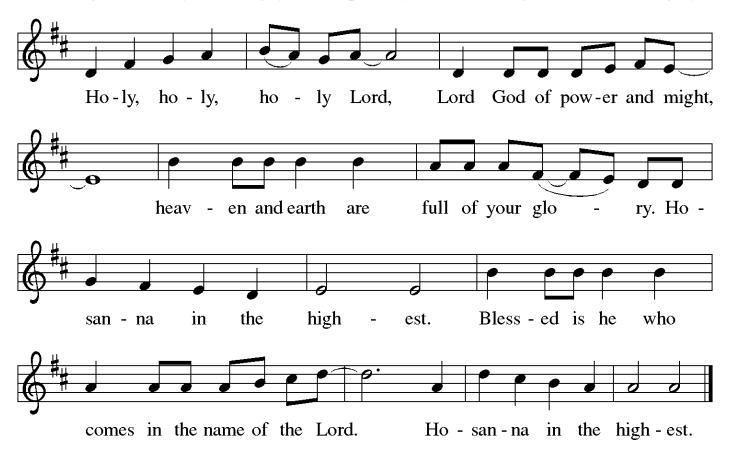
#### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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 our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



#### **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

#### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom 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 the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.



Please be seated.

#### RECEPTION OF COMMUNON

If you wish to receive communion, please approach the pastor one at a time.

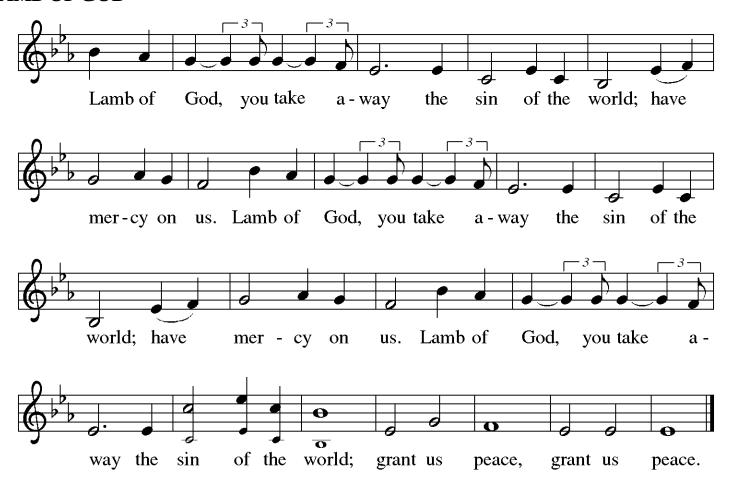
The pastor will place a wafer in your open hands. Please indicate if you need a gluten free wafer.

The vicar serves the wine from the chalice—either by intinction or drinking from the common cup.

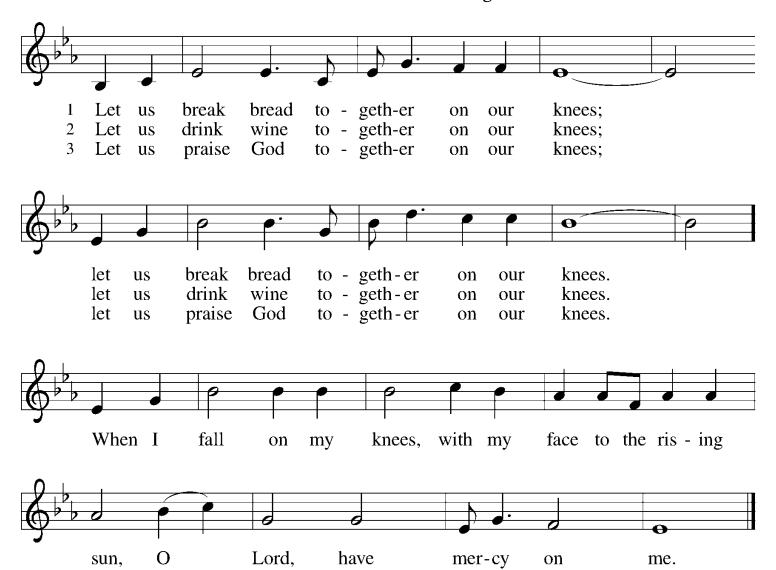
The assisting minister serves the wine/grape juice in pre-filled individual cups.

All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table. If you do not wish to commune, you may come forward for a blessing.

#### LAMB OF GOD



# **COMMUNION HYMN** ELW 471 Let Us Break Bread Together



Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAL BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

## **COMMUNION HYMN** ELW 763 My Life Flows On in Endless Song



- 1 My life flows on in end less song; a bove earth's lam-en ta tion,
- 2 Through all the tu mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring ing.
- 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv eth.
- 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev-er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion. It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing? What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth. All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth,how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

Please stand.

#### **BLESSING**

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

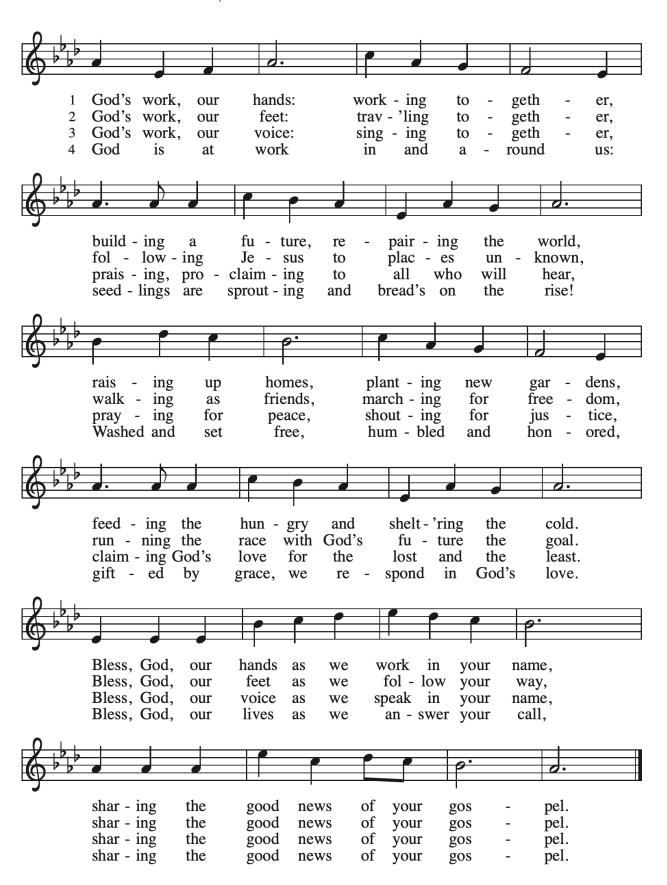
#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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 walk humbly with you. Amen.

#### **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give your peace. **Amen.** 

# HYMN ACS 1000 God's Work, Our Hands



Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987 Text © 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress Music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

# **DISMISSAL**

Let us go forth,

In the name of Christ. Amen.

**POSTLUDE** Trumpet Tunes (Suite No. 2)

Calvin Hampton



Please follow the cross out of the Sanctuary and directly into Hinman Hall for our Annual Congregation Meeting.

## February 12, 2023

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Pattie Gould and Hasan Karslioglu

**Annual Congregation Meeting, TODAY in Hinman Hall** following worship. Lunch will be provided. We will elect Congregation Council Members, elect Synod Assembly Voting Members, approve the Ministry Spending Plan, adopt the RIC Welcome Statement, receive reports, and set ministry vision for the future. All members are urged to attend.

Our Neighbors' Faith: Exploring the Church Family Tree Classes are on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM. Join us in person or on Zoom.

**Souper Bowl of Caring, TODAY:** We will have our "Noisy Offering" to collect donations for ELCA World Hunger. Noisy coins are welcome, but any amount is welcome!

**Shrove Sunday Breakfast**, **February 19, 9:00 AM**: Pancake Day, Fasnacht (Donut) Day, Shrove Tuesday – all of these are the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent – the 40 days leading up to Easter – was traditionally a time of fasting. Shrove Tuesday was the last opportunity to use up sugars and fats before embarking on the Lenten fast and pancakes are the perfect way of using up these ingredients. We will celebrate with pancakes, bacon, and sausage before our Lenten fast begins. Come hungry!

Ash Wednesday, February 22 services at Noon and 7:30 PM with the Imposition of Ashes.

Lenten Midweek Worship: Beginning March 1, services on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM, Soup Suppers and Fellowship at 6:00 PM. Please sign up on the rear entry bulletin board to bring food to ensure we have enough.

*Still I Rise*, **Sunday**, **March 5 at 4:00 PM:** Christ Church and Fountain Baptist are presenting *Still I Rise: A Musical Celebration of Black History Month* at Christ Church, 561 Springfield Ave., Summit. Suggested donation is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children (12 and under).

