

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sunday School for all ages. Join us for breakfast at 9:30 a.m. [Preregister your kids here](#). Download the [Parent Cue App](#) to tie in to weekly lesson and at-home resources. NEW! High School Sunday morning class available, starting in October.
- [Abundant Life - Women's Group](#) – access the abundant life that God promised us by taking care of our health. A group for women to share faith-based motivation, inspiration, and accountability for any of our health goals. Click the link for more information. The group is private.
- Create beautiful embroidery with other creators! Meetings once a month. Only \$35 / month for lessons. Contact Dot Leasure for more details.
- Do you or someone you know need a home, but haven't been able to get approved for a mortgage? Habitat for Humanity can help! Information session, October 7, 5p.m. at LaVale Baptist Church pavilion.
- 5K walk on the Great Allegheny Passage on Sunday, October 10, 2021 @ 1:30 pm. Registration at the CBIZ Parking Lot. The walk supports hunger missions locally, around the country and the world. Fundraising has begun! You can donate and/or join the [LaVale United Team](#).
- First Way Pregnancy Center fall fundraiser. October 19<sup>th</sup>, 6p.m. @ Cumberland Country Club. Tickets are \$25. [Click here](#) for more information.
- Cluster Church Conference will take place on October 11 @ 7p.m. The location is still to be determined as the District is prayerfully considering COVID safety and individual charge needs in the area. Thankfully, the administrative ministry of our churches continues, and we will rejoice in all that God has done in our churches and communities over the last year. God is good and we have been richly blessed, in spite of current circumstances.

Questions? Call the church office (301) 722-6800.

**We'd like to thank all who are joining us virtually on Youtube, Facebook, or our website. We welcome our radio audience on WCBC where this service will air next week at 9am. We also welcome those joining us in the Parking lot via 92.3 FM.**

We see all of you and we welcome you.

For those of you who are here in person we welcome you as well.

Happy Sabbath day and welcome to worship.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Please rise)**

GOD WHISPERS TO EACH OF US (written by Michael Parker)

God whispers to each of us: you are my beloved, created in love for love.  
My spirit answers, here I am, Lord. Speak to me anew.

Then let us gather, old and young, small and great, to dream God's dreams, receive  
God's power, and do God's deeds.

Here we are, Lord. Shine the light of your love on us. Kindle your Spirit within us. Work  
your redeeming will in us, that the world may be one through the power of your love.

## **PRELUDE/LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

### **OPENING PRAYER**

We praise you, O God, for though you do as you please, your pleasure is justice with  
compassion. We worship you, O God, for though you choose your servants as you  
wish, you elect people who are called to serve all in obedience to you. We are awed by  
the powers of nature, but assured that there is no force or being that can overpower  
you. We are most grateful that you make yourself known to us through the healing and  
saving power of Jesus Christ, our Leader and Friend. Amen.

**\*OPENING HYMN** - Praise To The Lord The Almighty (Lobe den Herren)  
vs 1, 3, 5

Verse 1

Praise to the Lord the Almighty  
The King of creation  
O my soul praise Him  
For He is thy health and salvation  
All ye who hear now to His temple draw near  
Praise Him in glad adoration

Verse 3

Praise to the Lord Who doth prosper  
Thy work and defend thee  
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
If with His love He befriend thee

Verse 5

Praise to the Lord  
O let all that is in me adore Him

All that hath life and breath  
Come now with praises before Him  
Let the amen sound from His people again  
Gladly for all we adore Him

CCLI Song # 43073

Catherine Winkworth | Joachim Neander

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### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

7:1 So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther.

7:2 On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled."

7:3 Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me -- that is my petition -- and the lives of my people -- that is my request.

7:4 For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king."

7:5 Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?"

7:6 Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

7:9 Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that."

7:10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

9:20 Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far,

9:21 enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year,

9:22 as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

**SERMON** "The Power of Prayer" Rev. Frankie Revell

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

REFLECTION: JAMES 5:13-20

'Therefore confess your sins to one another,  
and pray for one another, so you may be healed.'

A good friend doesn't let you get away with murder  
but will speak for you in your defense

a good friend asks hard questions

but stays with you while you struggle with the answers

a good friend sees you at your worst

but still loves you

a good friend has had plenty of practice

in forgiving you

a good friend has no illusions about you

(knows you're only human)

but still has hopes for you

everyone needs a good friend,

otherwise you'd just go on making the  
same dreary old mistakes

God of wisdom, God of justice, God of mercy,  
be our Savior and our friend.

### **OFFERING/OFFERTORY PRAYER**

God of the beginning, God of now, and God of what will be; in your claiming us as your own, you have given us the most gracious and powerful invitation – to pray to lift all that weighs on our hearts, with the confidence that you will hear. As we offer gifts to you this morning, we pray that you will dedicate them so that they might bring love, compassion, joy, and mercy to people who are in need. Then remind us that we are not done until we have offered to you the prayers of our hearts. In the name of Jesus, our rock and our redeemer. Amen. (James 5:13-20)

**\*CLOSING HYMN** -They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

*Verse 1*

We are one in the Spirit  
We are one in the Lord  
We are one in the Spirit  
We are one in the Lord  
And we pray that all unity  
May one day be restored

*Chorus*

And they'll know we are Christians  
By our love by our love  
Yes they'll know we are Christians  
By our love

*Verse 2*

We will walk with each other  
We will walk hand in hand  
We will walk with each other  
We will walk hand in hand  
And together we'll spread the news  
That God is in our land

*Verse 3*

We will work with each other  
We will work side by side  
We will work with each other  
We will work side by side  
And we'll guard each man's dignity  
And save each man's pride

CCLI Song # 26997

Peter Scholtes

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**\*BENEDICTION (Please Rise)**

**(Curry F. Butler)**

Let us go out into the world, understanding that we are not of it, knowing that we are your children and baptized in your Holy Spirit. So let us walk in unity, showing the world that knew not our savior that we are indeed one. We cannot be divided. We cannot be conquered. We will stand together.

**\*POSTLUDE**

**\*DISMISSAL**