



January 14, 2023

Call to Worship

Invocation

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them. You will multiply the nation, you will increase their gladness; they will be glad in Your presence as with the gladness of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. Isaiah 9:2-3

Scripture Reading

Message

Pastoral Prayer

Offering and Announcements

“What a Beautiful Name”

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord; peace in heaven and glory in the highest! Luke 19:38

Communion

Communion elements are gluten and dairy free

“Living Hope”

The Lord’s lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “Therefore I have hope in Him,” Lamentations 3:22-24

Benediction

We will show up like Jesus.

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This Week

- Monday 7:00pm** AA, *the Schoolhouse*
- Tuesday 9:00am** Neighbor to Neighbor
- Wednesday . . . 7:00pm** Prayer Together
- Thursday 10:00am** Bible Study
- Saturday 8:00am** Men’s Breakfast
- Sunday 10:00am** Sunday School/Bible Study
- 11:00am** Worship

Looking Forward



Bible Study Every Thursday at 10:00am, in room 102, Everyone is welcome. The time around the table is a deeper dive into scripture from worship. Come with your thoughts and questions to puzzle the truth of scripture together.

Saturday, January 20th, 8:00am, Men’s Breakfast at the schoolhouse. Let us know if you are planning to be there. A sign up is in the church foyer.



Tuesday, January 23rd, 12:30pm Food Express, join in serving our community come when you can and leave when you must. The extra hands are always a blessing to share in the work.

Saturday, February 3rd, 10:00am, Church Board Retreat, at the Schoolhouse.



Wednesday, February 14th, 7:00pm Lent begins, we will gather in worship and reflection centering on the sacrifice of love Christ has given.

Morning Reflections online, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:00am, scroll by.

Sunday February 18th, 12:30pm, Soup’er Bowl, Get your chili and soup recipes ready for the winning bowl of 2024. Entries are \$5 and voting is done by your donations.



Sunday, March 3rd, 1:00pm Fellowship Dinner and Prayer Retreat. Bring a dish to pass and stay through the afternoon to linger in God’s presence and serve the concerns of others.

Erin and Wesley Wright are expecting the birth of their baby on February 29th, extend a card of blessing and encouragement to them: **28 Center Street, Forestville, NY 14062**



Prayer is an act of surrender, to set aside my work, my desire, my effort of accomplishing to rely on God’s provision and presence. Join in the practice of being the body of Christ, **Wednesdays at 7:00pm**, here at the church.

2024 Kingdom Community Part II, “Showing up like Jesus” is a relationship with Christ that cannot be separated from relationship with community. It is not a matter of choice or convenience. To follow Jesus is the practice of being one with the church universal and the people God has placed in this world. The church, like any human family, has wounded but it also heals, it has challenged but it is also the hope of perfect love. Jesus is her only head and her only foundation. Our task is to take His hand and the hand of others to walk in the humility and grace he has shown us.

Mission Mini Grant Forms, “Intentional Acts of Grace” are available in the foyer. If you have an idea of a way to serve your neighbor, our Mission’s Board would like to partner with you. Fill out a form today and put it in the offering plate. Let’s show up like Jesus.



Showing Up

The Love of Christ

⁵In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. ⁷But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

⁸Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

¹¹Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. ¹⁴He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. ¹⁶He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

¹⁸Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

¹⁹The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. ²⁰And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens,

because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time."

²¹Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. ²²When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

²³When his time of service was completed, he returned home. ²⁴After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. ²⁵"The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called^[a] the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her

Luke 1:5-38



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