

“Is not this the fast I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice;
to share your bread with the hungry; to bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to clothe them?” - Isaiah 58:6, 7

GATHERING MUSIC

Dr. Bill Holda

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

“Again We Keep This Solemn Feast”

ROCKINGHAM OLD

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

***OPENING PRAYER**

O God, glorious and faithful, to those who seek you with a sincere heart
you reveal the beauty of your face.

**Strengthen us in faith to embrace the mystery of the cross,
and open our hearts to its transfiguring power; that,
clinging in love to your will for us, we may walk the path of discipleship
as followers of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

We pray, acknowledging with deep gratitude that you are the one
who always lives and reigns over us with justice and love, our one God,
forever and ever. Amen.

***HYMN – No. 269**

“Lead On, O King Eternal”

LANCASHIRE

***CALL TO AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of mercy, you are full of tenderness and compassion,
slow to anger, rich in mercy, and always ready to forgive.**

**Grant us grace to renounce all evil and to cling to Christ,
that we may prove to be your loving children in every way.**

Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin.

Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

(Time for Silent reflection and prayer)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***SHARING IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

(Continued .)

And also with you.

(A time to greet one another in the peace and love of Jesus)

ENGAGING WITH THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

reader, Steve Crane

Holy One of mighty power, your word is powerfully dangerous.

Your word casts out demons. Your word heals incurable diseases.

Your word devours empires. Your word transforms the fabric of the universe.

Help us stand in awe and fear of what your word can do.

Give us courage to speak your word and wisdom to hear it,

for the sake of the one whose very whisper can demolish sin, Jesus Christ,

In whose name we pray now and always our Lord, Amen.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS

Hebrew Lesson: Psalm 22

The Lord bless the reading of these words.

The Lord bless the hearing of these words.

Epistle Lesson: Philippians 3:17- 4:1

And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

Full of Grace and Truth, thanks be to God.

HYMN– No. 8

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

MELITA

Gospel Lesson: Luke 13:1-9, 22-35

Now God has spoken to us through Jesus Christ the Son.

Praise be to you, O Christ. Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“The Price of Knowing Nothing!”

Rev. David F. Judd

DESCRIPTION OF PRAISE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** Barmen Declaration (1933)

As members of Lutheran, Reformed, and United Churches we may
and must speak with one voice in this matter today.

Precisely because we want to be

and to remain faithful to our various Confessions,

**we may not keep silent, since we believe that we have been given a common
message to utter in a time of common need and temptation.**

**We commend to God what this may mean for the interrelations of the
Confessional Churches.**

(Continued.)

II. Theological Declaration Concerning the Present Situation of the German Evangelical Church

4. "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant." The various offices in the Church do not establish a dominion of some over the others; on the contrary, they are for the exercise of the ministry entrusted to and enjoined upon the whole congregation.

We reject the false doctrine, as though the Church, apart from this ministry, could and were permitted to give to itself, or allow to be given to it, special leaders vested with ruling powers.

5. "Fear God. Honor the emperor."

We reject the false doctrine, as though the State, over and beyond its special commission, should and could become the single and totalitarian order of human life, thus fulfilling the Church's vocation as well.

We reject the false doctrine, as though the Church, over and beyond its special commission, should and could appropriate the characteristics, the tasks, and the dignity of the State, thus itself becoming an organ of the State.

***HYMN – No. 581**

“Glory Be to the Father”

GLORIA PATRI

GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD

CALL FOR OFFERING TO GOD

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of compassion, we praise you that you look upon our frail lives with love and understanding, and that you desire for us all new life in Jesus Christ. We are overwhelmed by your love, which goes to the cross for us, endures the grave, and leads us to new life.

Amen

***HYMN – No. 608**

“Doxology”

PRAISE GOD

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

Lenten Litany of Intercessions

Jesus, remember us when you come into your kingdom.
Hear our intercessions for your church around the world,
we ask new life.

For all who carry out ministries in your church,
we ask grace and wisdom.

For people who have accepted spiritual disciplines,
we ask inspired discipleship.

For Christians of every land, we ask new unity in your name.

For Jews and Muslims and people of other faiths,
we ask your divine blessing.

For those who cannot believe,
we ask your faithful love.

**For governors and rulers in every land, we ask your guidance, their humility,
so they may have compassion and gain your wisdom.**

For people who suffer and sorrow, we offer these prayers and
we ask your healing peace.

(Time for silent and spoken prayer.)

May our faith, hope, and charity turn hatred to love,
conflict to peace, and death to eternal life;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO LIVE THE WORD

*HYMN – No. 263

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”

CORONATION

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

“Forty Days and Forty Nights”

AUS DER TIEFE RUFTE ICH

Welcome friends! May the welcome you feel here be worthy of the gracious God that we serve. In this service, an asterisk (*) invites you to stand as health allows. Material printed in **bold** is for the congregation to sing or say. Let us worship God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday Night Live dinner is served at 6 p.m. Please call or email the church office by noon on Tuesday for reservations. The cost is \$10 for adults, with reduced prices for children. This week's menu includes beef stew, a side, salad, dessert, and a drink.

The **stated Session meeting** is this Tuesday, March 18, at 4 p.m. in the Calvin room.

CUMC will continue to provide food bags for **One Love Longview**. **Items needed include** peanut butter cups, beef jerky sticks, water bottles, and fruit cups. Help Pack One Love Food Bags and CPS Hygiene Bags on **Wednesday, March 19 at 1:30**.

Reverend Evan Dolive will fill the pulpit next **Sunday, March 23**.

The **Boy Scouts will host a Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser** at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church on **Saturday, March 29** from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Dine in or carry out – every meal helps the Boy Scouts purchase camping equipment!

Join us **Sunday, March 30**, for a worship service with Community United Methodist Church and a **5th Sunday Potluck Lunch**. Bring a side dish or dessert to share and the churches will provide fried chicken.

The Affirmation of Faith is not the Nicene Creed but the Barmen Declaration of 1933.
Some contextual background:

THE THEOLOGICAL DECLARATION OF BARMEN

I. An Appeal to the Evangelical Congregations and Christians in Germany

The Confessional Synod of the German Evangelical Church met in Barmen, May 29-31, 1934. Here, representatives from all the German Confessional Churches met with one accord in a confession of the one Lord of the one, holy, apostolic Church. In fidelity to their Confession of Faith, members of Lutheran, Reformed, and United Churches sought a common message for the need and temptation of the Church in our day. With gratitude to God, they are convinced that they have been given a common word to utter. It was not their intention to found a new Church or to form a union. For nothing was farther from their minds than the abolition of the confessional status of our Churches. Their intention was, rather, to withstand in faith and unanimity the destruction of the Confession of Faith and thus of the Evangelical Church in Germany.

263 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

Descant

4 O that with yon - der sa - cred thron - e we at his feet may fall!

1 All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
 2 Ye cho - sen seed of Is - rael's race, ye ran - somed from the fall,
 3 Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe on this ter - res - trial ball
 4 O that with yon - der sa - cred thron - e we at his feet may fall!

We'll join the song, and crown him Lord of all!

bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 to him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all!

We'll join the song, and crown him Lord of all!

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 To him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all!

This 18th-century text celebrating the sovereignty of Christ has been through several expansions and contractions before reaching its present form. It is set here to the oldest American hymn tune in continuous use since first published in 1793, which was written for it.

269 Lead On, O King Eternal!

1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;
 2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
 3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,

hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents shall be our home.
 and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;
 for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears;

Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong,
 for not with swords' loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums;
 your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light.

and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
 with deeds of love and mer - cy the heav - en - ly king - dom comes.
 The crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

Not everything that looks like a battle ends up being one. This text, written for a seminary graduation, works well with its martial tune in the first stanza; but later stanzas turn from such imagery and focus on “deeds of love and mercy” and courage for life’s journey.

8 Eternal Father, Strong to Save



1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
 2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
 3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who did brood up - on the cha - os
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and power, all trav - elers guard in



rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
 mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
 wild and rude, and bade its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
 dan - ger's hour; from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: O hear us when we
 calm a - mid its rage did sleep: O hear us when we
 gave, for fierce con - fu - sion, peace: O hear us when we
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall



cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 rise to thee glad praise from air and land and sea.



The year after this text was written for a student sailing to America, it was included in the most influential British hymnal of the 19th century. The tune especially composed for it preserves the ancient Roman name of the island where Paul was shipwrecked, now called Malta.