

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth**  
**Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Rev. Gerry Gallant**

**Faith**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**James 2:14-26**

**Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

A voice in the wilderness cries out:

**Prepare the way of the Lord!**

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill be made low.

**The crooked shall be made straight, and rough places, smooth.**

A voice in the wilderness cries out:

**All people shall see the salvation of God!**

Lift up your hearts in expectation!

**We will lift up our praise to the One who is coming into the world once more.**

**Prayer of Adoration and Invocation**

God of peace and promise,  
you are the giver of life, living in us through the power of your Holy Spirit.  
You are the voice that calls us from our wandering,  
setting us on a new path.  
You are the living water that purifies us,  
baptizing us for service in the world that so badly needs your love.  
Refresh us in this time of worship,  
and reignite our desire to serve you each and every day.  
Glory, honor, and praise be yours now and always,  
Holy One, Holy Three,  
One God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. **Amen.**

**Advent Candle Lighting**

**Week 2 – The Candle of Faith**

Leader: Today we light the second candle of Advent—the Candle of Faith.

**People: We remember those who placed their trust in God even when the way was unclear.**

Leader: Faith is the courage to say “yes” when God calls.

**People: Faith is the willingness to follow, even when we cannot see the whole path.**

Reading:

Mary responded to the angel with faithful obedience: “Let it be to me according to your word.” Joseph embraced a costly trust, taking Mary as his wife despite fear and uncertainty. Their faith opened the way for the incarnation—God with us. We, too, are invited to walk in faith, trusting in the One who guides our steps.

Leader: The light of faith shines in those who trust God’s word.

**People: May our lives reflect the faithful obedience of Mary and Joseph.**

Prayer:

Faithful God, strengthen our trust in You. When we are afraid, remind us of Your presence.

When we are uncertain, remind us of Your promises. Grant us the courage to say “yes” to Your calling and to follow where You lead. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Call to Confession

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Let us make our confession to God.

### Prayer of Confession

Lord Christ,

**we confess our willingness to be loved**

**but also our reluctance to love.**

**We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love**

**but also our refusal to forgive.**

**We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love**

**but also our resistance to follow you without question.**

**In this Advent time, forgive us our failure**

**to respond as we should.**

**Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you**

**with joy, as the shepherds;**

**with gratitude, as Simeon;**

**with obedience, as Mary;**

**with love, as you have loved us.**

**Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

### Assurance of Pardon

Almighty God, by whose providence

our Savior, Jesus Christ, came among us in great humility,

will sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin

**The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
 Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread.  
 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One.  
 For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
 Forever and ever. Amen.

**Hymn #122: "Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel"**

Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel,  
 and ransom captive Israel,  
 that mourns in lowly exile here,  
 until the Son of God appear.

Oh come, thou Branch of Jesse, free  
 thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
 from depths of hell thy people save,  
 and give them victory o'er the grave.

Oh come, thou Key of David, come  
 and open wide our heavenly home;  
 make safe the way that leads on high  
 and close the path to misery.

**Responsive Reading****Psalm 25:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**O my God, in you I trust;  
 let me not be put to shame;  
 let not my enemies exult over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;  
 they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Make me to know your ways, O Lord;  
 teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
 for you are the God of my salvation;  
 for you I wait all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love,  
 for they have been from of old.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

**<sup>8</sup> Good and upright is the Lord;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

<sup>9</sup> He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.

**<sup>10</sup> All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

**Anthem (Music Ministry): “Let Every Nation”**

**Prayer for illumination**  
**(Congregant Prepared)**

**Scripture**

**James 2:14-26**

**14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.**

**18 But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! 20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. 24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. 25 And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? 26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.**

**Sermon**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we have entered the second week of the season of Advent, our journey towards the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and a time in which we joyfully await His second coming. Last week, we lit the first Candle of Advent, the candle of Hope, remembering that Christian hope is not wishful thinking, not an emotional response, not an optimistic outlook on life – Christian hope is a confident expectation grounded in the unchanging promises of a sovereign God.

Our hope in this world is rooted in the sovereign faithfulness of God, who speaks and brings to pass all His plans for this world. Our hope rests in the first coming of our Lord and Savior in Bethlehem and in looking forward with absolute certainty to his second return in the sky for all the world to see.

Today, we look at the second main theme of Advent, Faith.

Not faith as is defined by the world, not a faith that is a vague form of spirituality, not faith as in believing in ourselves and our abilities.

The world says things like, 'have faith, it will all work out', the world teaches us to have 'faith in ourselves' and 'faith in humanity.'

We are not talking about that kind of faith, instead we are talking about the true, Biblical Faith of Salvation that is offered to all through Jesus Christ. Which is a very different faith than the one the world wants us to believe in.

The Biblical definition of faith is found in the book of Hebrews

**Hebrews 11:1**

**11** Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Biblical faith is not wishful thinking, it is not blind trusting, it is not uncertain hopefulness.

Biblical faith is confident, assured, convicted and certain. Biblical faith focuses on God and is trusting that regardless of what we see and feel in our circumstances, knowing that God is in control and everything that is happening is according to His plans.

This means that Hope and Faith are interconnected.

Hope looks forward, faith grabs hold of that hope and takes hold of it in the here and now.

Hope anticipates what is to come, Faith embraces what is to come today.

Hope sees the promises of God, Faith trusts in the Promise-Keeper.

Hope understands that 'God will do it', Faith knows that 'God said it, so I can believe in it.'

As Christians our hope is tied to our faith, which then leads to Joy, and Love, and Christ. The Advent journey we take each year at this time.

So, let's spend some time examining Christian faith.

Our Scripture today is one of the most examined and most debated sections on faith. It is not meant to confuse us, but to help us better understand the nature of a True Saving Faith.

**James 2:14**

**14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?**

Notice how James asks this question. The question is not, 'Does faith save?' instead the question is, 'Can a faith without works save?'

James is asking, can a faith that has no fruit, no obedience, no transformation of character, no evidence of the Holy Spirit at work save?

James is trying to show us the difference between True Saving Faith, and the false faith that leads to hell.

And he is blunt about it.

**James 2:17-18**

**17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works**

Those who claim faith but see no evidence of the Holy Spirit in their lives are living a dead faith.

This is important to understand, James does not say that a weak faith, or an immature faith, or an incomplete faith, or even a struggling faith has no salvation. He says that a faith that shows no evidence, no struggle, no immaturity, no weakness, no change, no love, no abiding and no obedience is a dead faith.

This is the heart of the Gospel, we are saved by faith alone, but a faith that justifies is never alone.

Faith alone saves us, but that faith comes with loving Christ, abiding in Christ, and obeying Christ. A Saving Faith comes with justification, perseverance in trials and tribulations, a desire to obey God's Word even when it costs us here on earth and the Fruit of the Spirit becoming evident in our life. Saving Faith shows evidence of the process of Sanctification as we change from who we were into who God is calling for us to be as we struggle with the sins in our lives.

Last week we looked at the book of Romans as we learned about Hope. Paul wrote,

**Romans 5:1**

**5 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Justification is by faith alone, this is how we are made right with God. That faith can come at any point in our lives; all that matters is that it comes before we take our final breath here on earth.

James shows us what that faith should look like. Paul was instructing the faithful who were caught up in the battle against the legalism of the organized church, the idea that we can somehow be saved by our own works.

James is fighting the idea that as long as we believe in Christ we are saved. This idea that seems to permeate the Christian world today, that as long as I believe in Christ, I can live whatever life I want and find salvation. The idea that I can keep on living whatever life I choose, keep living in the sins I love, and because I say I love God, and I go to church every week, and 'God made me this way' I will stand in Christ's presence on the Day of Judgement and be justified. The term we use in theology for this is antinomianism, and the idea is not a new one, it is a very old one.

Paul and James are fighting two different enemies, two different errors of the faith and teaching the true Gospel of what a Faith that saves looks like.

True faith in God is evident in your life; it always has been even in the writings of the Old Testament we see this truth. You do not simply possess faith you need to live by it. The book of Habakkuk says that.

**Habakkuk 2:4**

**<sup>4</sup> "Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.**

True Faith in God changes the way you think, act and speak, it changes the direction of your life.

**Psalm 119:29-30**

**Put false ways far from me  
and graciously teach me your law!  
<sup>30</sup> I have chosen the way of faithfulness;  
I set your rules before me.**

A true Biblical Faith is one that trusts in God's promises, submits to God's Word and walks in God's ways!

True Faith does not simply believe that God exists. The Israelites always believed that God existed. Even Satan and his minions know and believe that God exists, they know theology, they know doctrine, Satan knows more about God than we do, and none of that brings him salvation. Because he does not love God, Abide in God, Submit to God, Trust in God or Obey God's Word.

James makes this absolutely clear!

**James 2:19**

**19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!**

Advent confronts us with the reality that God's promises are fulfilling in Jesus Christ alone.

**Isaiah 7:14**

**<sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.**

Believing in that promises required True Faith, required true hope and trust in something which God had promised would come true at God's appointed time.

Mary faces that and her response is:

**Luke 1:38**

**Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.**

That is True Faith. Joseph obeyed in faith, the Shepherd went in faith, the Magi traveled in faith, Simeon waited in faith and Anna proclaimed in faith. The whole story of the birth of Jesus Christ is a story of faith in the promises of God.

True faith makes you do things that you normally may not do, True Faith produces works.

**James 2:15-16**

**15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?**

Words without action have no meaning. Compassion without sacrifice is empty. Professing a love of God, a faith in God, without obeying God, has no meaning, it is a dead faith.

The church reformers understood it this way, faith is the root, and works are the fruit. The root alone saves, but wherever the root exists, fruit will appear. We studied this when Jesus was teaching to abide in the vine.

Even in the book of Matthew Jesus said.

**Matthew 7:15-20**

**<sup>15</sup> "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup> You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.**

Look at a person's life, see the fruit of their life, is it trying to be obedient to the Word of God or is it chasing after the adoration of the world? Is it filled with self-sacrifice and humility or self-satisfaction and pride? Know them by their fruits. A fruitless tree is a dead tree; the same way a fruitless faith is a dead faith.

Now look at your own life in that same way.

James says look to Abraham as an example of true faith.

**James 2:20-21**

**20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?**

**21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?**

Abraham believed in God.

**Genesis 15:6**

**<sup>6</sup> And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.**

Abraham believes in God before he did any of God works, before he performed any sacrifice, he believed simply because He placed his faith and trust in the Lord.

Paul even quotes this verse from Genesis in Romans to show Abraham was saved by faith alone.

**Romans 4:3**

**<sup>3</sup> For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.**

Abraham believed, Abraham had faith, and that faith responds to God.

**Genesis 22:1-2**

**22 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>2</sup> He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."**

What did Abraham do?

He took his only son Isaac, whom he loved, up the side of that mountain, Isaac carrying the wood for the burnt offering on his shoulders.

When Isaac questioned about the lamb for the sacrifice Abraham said.

**Genesis 22:8**

**Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.**

Abraham trusted in the Lord. His faith responded, His faith obeyed. His act of faith proved his righteousness.

**James 2:22-24**

**22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. 24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.**

This is where so many people who call themselves Christian in the world today get it wrong.

Salvation requires submission, belief requires obedience, comfort requires sacrifice. Christ the Savior must be the Lord of your lie, not just a part of it.

What makes the book of James powerful, remarkable is the second illustration of faith that he gives.

Not a father of the church, not a hero of the nation of Israel! Instead, a gentile woman, a prostitute, a person who would have no spiritual credentials among Jews.

**James 2:25**

**25 And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?**

Rahab believed in the promises of God, and the faith produced works in her life.

Joshua had sent his men as spies into Jerico and they were being hunted by the King of Jerico. Rahab hid them for the night so that they could escape safely.

**Joshua 2:8-14**

**<sup>8</sup> Before the men lay down, she came up to them on the roof <sup>9</sup> and said to the men, “I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. <sup>10</sup> For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. <sup>11</sup> And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. <sup>12</sup> Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father’s house, and give me a sure sign <sup>13</sup> that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death.” <sup>14</sup> And the men said to her, “Our life for yours even to death! If you do not tell this business of ours, then when the Lord gives us the land we will deal kindly and faithfully with you.”**

Rahab confessed her faith in the One True Living God, and then acted upon it, she protected the spies, she aligned with God’s people and risked her own life, turning away from her old loyalties.

Rahab acted on her faith, and God saved her.

True faith moves you.

Noah built the Ark and got into it before a single drop of rain fell from the sky.

Moses aligned with the suffering of God's people rather than the treasure and pleasure of rulership in Egypt.

The Israelites walked across the Red Sea on dry land, and the walls of Jerico fell because of faith.

True Faith is never a passive faith, it is an active faith, one that moves, obeys, endures, holds fast and worships the One True Living God.

Which is why we need Jesus.

**Hebrews 12:1-2**

**12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

Jesus is the source of our Faith, the object of our Faith, the sustainer of our Faith and the completer of our Faith.

Our Faith is a gift from God. We do not produce a Saving Faith, the Holy Spirit provides us with a Faith that Saves once we admit our sin, once we humble ourselves before the Lord and repent, trusting in him with all of who we are.

John Edwards wrote

**We contribute nothing to our salvation  
but the sin that made it necessary.**

**John Edwards**

Advent reminds us of this truth.

Our God is a God that is faithful.

He promised a ruler from Bethlehem, a child born, a son given, a serpent crushing Savior.

He came, every prophecy fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Advent declares that God is faithful to His people and reminds us to be faithful to Him.

**2 Corinthians 13:5**

**<sup>5</sup>Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!**

Ask yourself, 'Do I believe in God, and obey his word or Do I live the life I want?'

Ask yourself, 'Do I claim to love Jesus and then refuse to obey his commands?'

**James 2:26**

**26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.**

Ask yourself, 'Do I claim to be Christian, and love the world first in my life?'

James never hesitates to say the things we find hard to hear.

**James 4:4**

**<sup>4</sup>You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.**

Examine your life and look for the Fruit of the Spirit in you. Do you live a life of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control?

Does your faith lead you to love God first with all your heart, soul, body and mind? Does it cause you to abide in him, be rooted in him in everything you think, say and do? Does it help you to obey him, even when the ways of the world go in a different direction?

Is your faith a faith that, repents, obeys, endures, and worships Jesus Christ?

Is your faith a faith that saves you? One that causes you to trust in Christ a little more each day, one that makes you submit to the Word of God a little more each day, one that shows repentance and change from a life of sin to a life of righteousness a little more each day, one that causes your love, abiding and obedience to grow?

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

James ends up with a simple, unforgettable image:

**James 2:26**

**26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.**

A corpse may look human,  
may have a familiar shape,  
may resemble life,  
but it is lifeless.

A faith that does not act  
 may look religious,  
 may sound spiritual,  
 may resemble Christianity,  
 but it is dead.

Do not settle having a dead faith.  
 Do not be content with empty words.  
 Do not claim Christ without loving Him, abiding in him, and obeying Him.

Live out the life you profess as you walk as the Salt and Light of God's Word in this dark and broken world.

Let us pray,

### **The Holy Spirit**

O Holy Spirit, Love of God,  
 pour out your grace,  
 and descend plentifully into my heart.  
 Enlighten the dark corners of this neglected dwelling,  
 and scatter there your cheerful beams.  
 Dwell in that soul that longs to be your temple.  
 Water that barren soil, overrun with weeds and briars,  
 and lost for lack of cultivating,  
 and make it fruitful with your dew from heaven.  
 Come, refreshment of those who languish and faint.  
 Come, Star and Guide of those who sail in the tempestuous sea of the world. You are the only Haven of  
 the tossed and shipwrecked.  
 Come, Glory and Crown of the living, and only Safeguard of the dying.  
 Come, Holy Spirit, in your great mercy, and make me fit to receive you. **Amen.**

***Source: Augustine of Hippo, Fourth Century***

### **Communion**

#### **Invitation to the Table**

This is the joyful feast of the people of God!  
 They will come from east and west, and from north and south,  
 and sit at table in the kingdom of God.  
 This is the table not of one denomination, but of our one Lord Jesus Christ.  
 It is made ready for those who love him  
 and those who want to love him more.

So come, you who have much faith and you who have little,  
 you who have been here often  
 and you who have not been for a long time.  
 Our Saviour invites all those who trust him  
 to share the feast which he has prepared.

### **Invitation**

Jesus invites us to this table and now we do as Jesus did.  
 We take this bread and this wine, ordinary things of the world.  
 In these, Jesus has promised to be present.  
 Through these Christ can make us whole.  
 Come all of you this is the joyful feast of the people of God.

As Jesus offered thanks for the gifts of the earth,  
 let us also bless God with great thanksgiving.

### **The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you;  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts;  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God;  
**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three,  
 You are source of all that exists.  
 You are beyond the galaxies, deeper than the oceans;  
 You pour down rain and bring forth the fruit of the earth.  
 You carry us through deep waters and hold us in the darkest night.  
 So with all your creatures, great and small,  
 with angels and archangels, with saints and servants in every generation  
 we join in the rejoicing of your creation:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
 Hosanna in the highest.  
 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy is your Son Jesus, O God,  
 Walking this earth, feeding the hungry, calling the lost, noticing the forgotten,  
 healing those who reached out, teaching those who sought wisdom,  
 he revealed your kingdom in our midst.  
 Today we thank you for all Jesus shared with us  
 to show us that you are always with us in times of plenty and times of pain.  
 And so we celebrate the mystery of our faith in him:

**Christ has died;  
 Christ is risen;  
 Christ will come again.**

Holy God,  
 When the sounds of our rejoicing fall silent,  
 we remember those who cannot rejoice today,  
 who face times of pain or fear or upheaval.  
 We think especially of those whose countries have been overwhelmed  
 by earthquake, flood and storm, by conflict, drought or famine.

Draw near to them in the power of the Spirit  
 to strengthen and sustain them through Christ's compassion and ours.

Holy Spirit, come now and settle on us  
 and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
 May they become for us Christ's body and life blood,  
 healing, forgiving and making us whole.  
 So may we become Christ's body, the Church,  
 loving and caring throughout the whole world  
 until that day when all creation feasts with you  
 in the fullness of your mercy and peace  
 that we savor today in the name of our Savior  
 who taught us when we pray to say together:

**The Apostles Creed**

**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 again 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.**

### **The Story of the Last Supper**

The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed took bread,  
 and when he had given thanks for it, he broke it, and said,  
 'This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'  
 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying,  
 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in  
 remembrance of me.'  
 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,  
 you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

This is the body of Christ broken for you.

This cup is the blood of Christ shed for you.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Loving God, Christ our Lord, Holy Spirit,  
 you have nourished us, body and soul, in this meal.  
 We have heard your love, so send us out to speak it.  
 We have seen your love, so send us out to show it.  
 We have been fed by your love, so send us out to share it.  
 And let all things be done for your glory. **Amen.**

### **Invitation to Offering**

#### **Offering**

#### **Offertory Prayer** **(Congregant Prepared)**

**Closing Hymn #143: “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”**

Infant holy, infant lowly,  
 for his bed a cattle stall;  
 oxen lowing, little knowing  
 Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
 Swift are winging angels singing,  
 nowells ringing, tidings bringing:  
 Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
 Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
 vigil till the morning new,  
 saw the glory, heard the story,  
 tidings of a gospel true.  
 Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
 praises voicing greet the morrow:  
 Christ the babe was born for you.  
 Christ the babe was born for you.

**Pastoral Prayer**

O King of nations,  
 your reign spreads through all the lands,  
 you defend the cause of the poor  
 and plead for the wretched of the earth.  
 Fashion us into an obedient people,  
 that we may spread the good news  
 of your reign of perfect peace and justice,  
 until all creation will finally rejoice in your perfect will,  
 until all bend the knee to the King of kings and Lord of lords,  
 in whose name we pray, even Jesus Christ, your Son, and our Savior. **Amen.**

**Benediction**

God the Father, who loved the world  
 so much that he sent his only Son,  
 give you grace to prepare for eternal life.  
 God the Son, who comes to us as Redeemer and Judge,  
 reveal to you the path from darkness to light.  
 God the Holy Spirit, by whose working  
 the virgin Mary conceived the Christ,  
 help you bear the fruits of holiness. **Amen.**