

“Here is the  
*Lamb of God*  
who takes away  
the sin of the world!”  
John 1:29



January 18, 2026  
10:15 am Family Contemporary Worship

# WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

## Prelude

Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit

arr. Carter

## Worship Song

### O Come to the Altar

Furtick, Brown, Joye, Brock

#### Verse 1

Are you hurting and broken within  
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin  
Jesus is calling  
Have you come to the end of yourself  
Do you thirst for a drink from the well  
Jesus is calling

#### Chorus

O come to the altar  
The Father's arms are open wide  
Forgiveness was bought with  
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

#### Verse 2

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes  
Come today there's no reason to wait  
Jesus is calling  
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy  
From the ashes a new life is born  
Jesus is calling

#### Bridge

Oh what a Savior  
Isn't he wonderful  
Sing alleluia Christ is risen  
Bow down before him  
For he is Lord of all  
Sing alleluia Christ is risen

#### Verse 3

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown  
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

## Confession

P: Mighty God, lover of justice, you call us to life in community,

C: **but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

P: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the grace of Christ, and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: **Amen.**

## Prayers of the Church

*Jesus Messiah Name above all names*

*Blessed Redeemer Emmanuel*

*The Rescue for sinners*

*The Ransom from heaven*

*Jesus Messiah Lord of all*

*(Refrain)*

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of all.

Holy Giver, you gather, forgive, and shape us as disciples of Christ. Nurture in us a spirit of patience and respect, that we may love one another as you love us.

Holy God, in our worship we glimpse your glory, hear your voice, and receive assurance of your love. Inspire all who prepare, lead, and participate in worship to serve you with reverence and joy.

God of our all, we thank You for the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whose life showed us the power of faithful courage, coalition, and love in the face of injustice. As we grieve the ongoing harm caused by racism, hatred, and broken systems, remind us that You still call ordinary and extraordinary people alike to labor for justice, even when the work feels slow and heavy. Give us courage, humility, and unity to confront oppression together, trusting You to guide us in both action and stillness as we seek a world shaped by Your love.

Abiding God, you are present with this congregation. Keep us mindful of our mission and guide our ministries in the Matthews and Charlotte community. Kindle in us a desire to help one another.

Hear us as we sing...

*(Refrain)*

God, our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. You give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Guide those in authority to govern with compassion, and bring peace to war zones.

Holy Healer, you care for vulnerable young children, frail elders, and any who are sick, especially those on our congregational prayer list and those we name aloud at this time.... We pray for all who are affected by natural disasters. Provide for their needs and relieve their suffering. We give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you.

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior, and we sing our amen...

*(Refrain)*

*(Children may head out for C&C Kids)*

### **Sharing of the Peace**

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C:** And also with you.



**This Week's Story: Jesus is Baptized**  
**Icebreaker Question: What do you want to be when you grow up?**

**Welcome Home and Announcements** *(See back page for additional announcements.)*

# THE WORD

## John 1:29-42

<sup>29</sup>[John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"<sup>30</sup>This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'<sup>31</sup>I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel."<sup>32</sup>And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him."<sup>33</sup>I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'<sup>34</sup>And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

<sup>35</sup>The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,<sup>36</sup>and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!"<sup>37</sup>The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.<sup>38</sup>When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?"<sup>39</sup>He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.<sup>40</sup>One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.<sup>41</sup>He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed).<sup>42</sup>He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

*(Please be seated)*

Sermon

Mike Meath

# THANKSGIVING

Anthem

## We Shall Overcome

Tindley, arr. Smith



1 We shall o - ver - come, we shall o - ver - come,  
2 We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand,  
3 We shall all have peace, we shall all have peace,



we shall o - ver - come some - day. Oh, deep in our  
we'll walk hand in hand some - day. Oh, deep in our  
we shall all have peace some - day. Oh, deep in our





hearts we do be - lieve we shall o - ver - come some - day.  
hearts we do be - lieve we'll walk hand in hand some - day.  
hearts we do be - lieve we shall all have peace some - day.

## Offertory Response

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ, Stanza 1

Linstead



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:  
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,  
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.  
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

### *Refrain*



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

## Statement of Belief

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.

# COMMUNION

## Come to the Table— Everyone's Invited!

*Holy Communion is a celebration of Christ's love, shared through His body and blood. If you're hungry for His presence, this meal is for you! We commune by taking a piece of bread and dipping it into wine or grape juice. Need grape juice or gluten-free options? No problem—the assistant will gladly help you out. Kids are welcome, too! Just let the assistant know if your child will be receiving Communion or would prefer a special blessing. We're so glad you're here—let's share this joyful moment together!*

## Words of Institution

- P: When we gathered for the celebration of Communion last Sunday, Pastor Melody said these words. With thanksgiving, we remembered that "in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me." We were given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit. Now we bring to you this same bread of life and this same cup of blessing, that you may be strengthened through your participation in the body of Christ.
- P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

## 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 trespasses,  
As we forgive those who  
trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

OR

Our Father, who is of heaven,  
Holy is your name  
Your kingdom come  
Your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread  
And forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those who trespass against us  
And lead us not into temptation  
and deliver us from evil  
For yours is the kingdom  
And the power, and the glory  
now and forever, Amen.

## Welcome to the Table

- P: Come now and feast on the gifts of God for the people of God.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please be seated)

## Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Distribution of Holy Communion

### Communion Song

#### Unshakeable Grace

Simpkins

##### Verse 1

I thought I could stand alone until I hit the ground  
Never knew I's lost until I was found  
You rescued me (x2),  
you took away my shame  
Lost as I am, you gave me my name

##### Verse 2

I left you for you dead and tried to steal your pride  
But you waited and hoped after me  
I laid in my tomb till you called me to life  
And came running, came running for me  
You came running, came running for me

##### Chorus

So I'm laying down, All of my arms  
You're singing my name, in a symphony of grace  
You carry my home, you set me a place  
When I was hungry, you gave me a taste  
Of your restless, unshakable grace  
Of your restless, unshakable grace

##### Verse 3

I was covered in chains that I put on myself  
My darkness stole my Victory  
But on that third day when you came back to life  
You took my chains, now forever I'm free  
took my chains, now forever I'm free

##### Bridge

When I was in prison  
When I was in doubt  
You threw away my sin  
And carried me out  
So I'm laying down, All of my arms  
You're singing my name, in a symphony of grace  
You carry my home, you set me a place  
When I was hungry, you gave me a taste  
Of your restless, unshakable grace  
Of your restless, unshakable grace

## **The Blessing**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in God's grace.

C: **Amen.**

## **Benediction**

P: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

C: **Amen.**

## **River of Mercy**

**Simpkins**

### **Verse 1**

Are you tired  
Are you weary  
Are you running out of places you can hide  
Are you lost  
Feeling hopeless  
With a burden you can't bear another night

### **Pre-Chorus 1**

Can you hear it the rushing of waters  
Healing streams that flow from his side

### **Chorus**

There is a river a river of mercy  
It flows to the broken the lost and the hurting  
Come to the river the river of mercy  
And be clean

### **Verse 2**

Come on out  
From your darkness  
And the whispers of a thousand different lies  
There's a voice  
That is calling  
With a power that will bring you back to life

### **Bridge**

There is a fountain filled with blood  
Drawn from Emmanuel's veins  
And sinners plunged beneath its flood  
Lose all their guilty stains

### **Pre-Chorus 2**

Can you hear it the rushing of waters  
Healing streams that flow from his side  
Can you hear it

## **The Doxology** (sung a capella)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen!

## **Sending**

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**