

St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA  
Walhalla, South Carolina  
9am Worship



Third Sunday after Epiphany  
January 21, 2024

St. John's Fellowship Hall

# Welcome to Worship!

As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

## PRE-GATHERING MUSIC

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GATHERING SONG “We Have Come into This House”

1 We have come in - to this house and gath - ered in his name to  
2 So for - get a - bout your - self and con - cen - trate on him and  
3 Let us lift up ho - ly hands and mag - ni - fy his name and

wor - ship him. We have come in - to this house and  
wor - ship him. So for - get a - bout your - self and  
wor - ship him. Let us lift up ho - ly hands and

gath - ered in his name to wor - ship him. We have  
con - cen - trate on him and wor - ship him. So for -  
mag - ni - fy his name and wor - ship him. Let us

come in - to this house and gath - ered in his name to  
get a - bout your - self and con - cen - trate on him and  
lift up ho - ly hands and mag - ni - fy his name and

wor - ship Christ, the Lord; wor - ship him, Christ the Lord.

Text: Bruce Ballinger, b. 1945  
Music: WORSHIP HIM, Bruce Ballinger, b. 1945

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, creator of darkness and light,  
word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God, our rock and refuge,

**we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not  
always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against  
you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each  
of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us,  
that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of  
grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority  
of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

**Amen.**

OPENING SONG: "Speak, O Lord"

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you,  
to receive the food of your Holy Word  
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us,  
shape and fashion us in your likeness  
That the light of Christ might be seen today  
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak O Lord and fulfill in us  
all your purposes for your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,  
holy reverence, true humility.  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
in the radiance of Your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority.  
Words of power that can never fail;  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;  
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,  
that will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;  
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, 'til your church is built,  
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

#### THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **People: And also with you.**

#### THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

#### THE FIRST READING

**Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” <sup>3</sup>So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” <sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. <sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

#### Psalm 62:5-12— *Read Responsively*

<sup>5</sup>For God alone I wait in silence; truly, my hope is in God.

<sup>6</sup>**God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.**

<sup>7</sup>In God is my deliverance and my honor;  
God is my strong rock and my refuge.

<sup>8</sup>**Put your trust in God always, O people,  
pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.**

<sup>9</sup>Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted. Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

<sup>10</sup>**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;  
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

<sup>11</sup>God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, that power belongs to God.

<sup>12</sup>**Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord,  
for you repay all according to their deeds.**

#### THE SECOND READING

**1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

<sup>29</sup>Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, <sup>30</sup>and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, <sup>31</sup>and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel*

THE ALLELUIA VERSE

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia*

THE HOLY GOSPEL

**Mark 1:14-20**

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

<sup>16</sup>As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE MESSAGE

*Pastor Rachel Connelly*

SONG OF RESPONSE: *“You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”*

- 1 You have come down to the lakeshore  
seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,  
but only asking for me to follow.

*Refrain*

Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes;  
kindly smiling, you've called out my name.  
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;  
now with you, I will seek other seas.

- 2 You know full well what I have, Lord:  
neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,  
just these my fish nets and will for working. *Refrain*
- 3 You need my hands, my exhaustion,  
working love for the rest of the weary--  
a love that's willing to go on loving. *Refrain*
- 4 You who have fished other waters;  
you, the longing of souls that are yearning:  
O loving Friend, you have come to call me. *Refrain*

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate and was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. 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.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*After each petition— God of grace, receive our prayer.*

## THE SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

## THE OFFERING

Our gifts and offerings are gathered for the mission of the church.  
Plates are passed by the ushers.

## OFFERTORY SONG: *"We Are an Offering"*



We lift our voices, we lift our hands,  
We lift our lives up to You: we are an offering.  
Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands,  
Lord, use our lives they are Yours: we are an offering

All that we have, all that we are,  
all that we hope to be, we give to You, we give to You.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,  
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering,  
we are an offering.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## THE MEAL

*All are welcome at the table of communion*

### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

### THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

### COMMUNION HYMN: "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

O soul are you weary and troubled?  
No light in the darkness you see?  
There's light for a look at the Saviour,  
And life more abundant and free

#### *Refrain*

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face;  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
in the light of His glory and grace

Through death into life everlasting  
He passed, and we follow Him there  
Over us sin no more hath dominion  
For more than conqu'rors we are. *Refrain*

His word shall not fail you, He promised,  
Believe Him and all will be well.  
Then go to a world that is dying,  
His perfect salvation to tell. *Refrain*

### THE PASTORAL BLESSING

### THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting: Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are  
Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to  
your glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

### THE BLESSING

Pastor: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit  
who dwells in you, ✠ bless you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



SENDING SONG: “*I Love to Tell the Story*”

- 1 I love to tell the story  
of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory,  
of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story,  
because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings  
as nothing else would do.

*Refrain*

I love to tell the story;  
'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.

- 2 I love to tell the story:  
how pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it,  
more wonderfully sweet!  
I love to tell the story,  
for some have never heard  
the message of salvation  
from God's own holy word. *Refrain*
- 3 I love to tell the story,  
for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting  
to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory,  
I sing the new, new song,  
I'll sing the old, old story  
that I have loved so long. *Refrain*

*Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911; Music: William E. Fischer, 1849-1936*  
*Public Domain*

DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

**People: Thanks be to God.**



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## The Bell Tower—Ministry News



Vicar Olga-Maria's internship project is documenting impacts of the pandemic on our congregation and community. Please support her work by filling out her brief, anonymous survey, either on paper (on clipboards in the breezeway), follow this QR code:

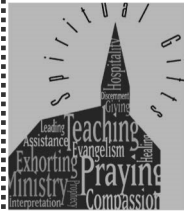


**On Saturday February 3, 2024, Rise Against Hunger** will be organized by our friends at Walhalla Presbyterian Church. Local churches will be assembling meal kits for those in need around the world. 100 volunteers are needed and the goal is to package 20,000 meals in 2

hours. Sounds ambitious...*but it was done last year so it can happen!* Volunteers will be asked to help measure, seal, label and package meals of soy, rice, dehydrated vegetables and micro nutrient packets. Volunteers are needed to help package the meals from 10am to noon at College Street Baptist in Walhalla.

Register online at <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/WPC2024> or sign up at the Spiritual Ops table.

Save the Date...the evening of **Saturday, February 24, 2024**, Lucy Klaren Circle will be hosting its annual Jubilee and Silent Auction at the Walhalla Depot. There will be lively music, tasty food, a variety of beverages, and lots of great items to be auctioned off. Childcare will be provided at the church. Tickets are \$25 each. All proceeds go towards scholarships for Walhalla High School seniors who demonstrate a passion for community service. If you're not able to attend and would like to be a sponsor, please contact Stephanie Champion at 864-710-2588 or any LKC member.



Pastor:  
Lay Assistant:  
Lector:  
Greeter  
Musicians:

### Serving Today

The Rev. Dr. Rachel Connolly  
Vicar Olga-Maria Cruz  
Grace Schmeelcke  
Grace Schmeelcke  
Carla Padgett, Tom Ward,  
Ray Burroughs, Dave Devoe

### **Our Church Family**

Joezie White, safe travels  
Gary Cabbage (& Marsha), Gary stroke 1/12 — healing  
Martha Murtiashaw, recovery from heart procedure  
Frieda Cobb, healing/upcoming surgery  
Brenda Safrit, surgery/recovery  
Anne Fogel, tests  
Thelma Miller, healing  
Lynne Williams, healing  
Tiffany Chapman, healing  
Robert Campbell, healing



### **Those grieving**

The Family and Friends of Dottie Brandt  
The Molden Family, loss of Julia's son, Sgt. Cade Wolfe

### **Our Elders at Home or Assisted Living**

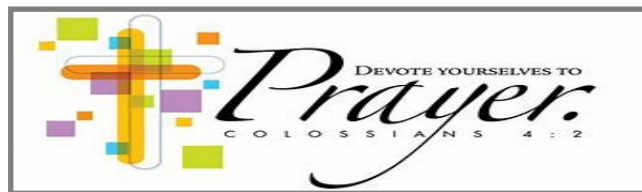
Jenine Baldus, hospice/home care  
Ann Biemann, home  
Jack Campbell, home  
Brenda Cantrell, home  
Julie Corbett, home care  
Doug Deane, hospice at home  
Linda Humphries, home, rehab Lila Doyle  
Marie Palmatier, home  
Peg Turner, The Oaks  
Betty Wallace, Belvedere  
Bill Watt, home  
Jeanne Welch, home

### **Other Prayer Concerns**

For Cpl. Lucas Watts and his family, and the Oconee County Sheriff's Department.  
For those dealing with loss and fear from gun violence.  
For peace in the Middle East, and comfort to those impacted by the violence there.  
For those recovering and those who are providing care and disaster response in the aftermath of recent natural disasters throughout the world.  
All military Personnel  
Bishop Ginny Aebischer and our Synod Staff

### **Our Extended Family and Friends**

Larry Greene, lung cancer (brother-in-law of Patty Shepard)  
Annette Vinson, surgery/recovery (friend of Ann Brackett)  
Zach James (son-in-law of Heavner's)  
John Rash, healing (son-in-law of Carolyn Brandt)  
Kevin Hathcock, healing (Safrit's family)  
Frank Guldner, healing  
Dan Huber, improving (Safrits)  
George Combes, healing (brother of Grace Lichtenwald)  
Mark Vassey, failure of transplanted kidney (Brackett)  
Ken Burnside, chemo/radiation (cousin of Barbara and Paul Wilson)  
Lauren Bowman, Lyme disease (daughter of Gary and Barb Bowman)  
Sara Pike, breast cancer/treatment (daughter of Dean and Anne Fogel)  
Diane Rivers, cancer treatment (sister of Bill Brackett)  
Tara Nolan, cancer (friend of Anne Fogel)  
Jacquelyn Moore, healing/MS (niece of Kathy Scherter)  
Bennie Smith, health (nephew of Wards)  
Jaime Henry, heart issues (son of Annie Henry)  
Kay Davis, cancer (friend of the Daniels)  
Betty Watkins (friend of Betty Sosebee)  
John Heasley, diabetes (son-in-law of Johnsons)  
Dohnvan (grandson of Kathy Scherter)  
Tom Tyree, cancer (friend of Sears)  
Harold Smith, heart (friend of Tina Barrett)  
Dolorico Perez (father of Josie Perez)  
Eve Mills, cancer (niece of Francoise Fussell)  
Gina Daly, health (daughter of Bob Johnson)



*Please let the church office know of  
any updates to our prayer list.*



CHURCH  
OFFICE  
STAFF

**St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA**  
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**Administrative Assistant —Melissa Rasley**  
(864) 638-6363 or Email: [stjohnsluther@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsluther@gmail.com)  
Office Hours Monday—Friday 8:30am to 1:00pm

**Additional St. John's Staff**

Ray Burroughs, Facilities Manager  
Joan Lewis, Spiritual Gifts Coordinator  
Greg Harris, Congregational President  
Patty Shepard, Youth Director  
Tiffany Chapman, Children's Ministry Coordinator



**Our tithes and offerings** are an important part of our faith journey.

- Electronic offerings may be given through the GIVELIFY app.
- You may also go to our website: [www.stjohnswalhalla.org](http://www.stjohnswalhalla.org) and click on the "Give Now With Givelify" button
- Another option is to scan this QR code to go directly to our Givelify page.

