

Christ Lutheran Church of Alamo Heights

6720 Broadway St. | San Antonio, TX 78209 | 210.822.3394 | www.clcah.org



Baptism of Our Lord
January 10, 2021

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Prelude on the Introit for Epiphany - Maurice Duruflé

CALL TO WORSHIP

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

People of God, in the baptismal waters you traveled with Christ from death to life. Your past, your sin, your failure, your doubt, are drowned and gone here. Your fear, your confusion, your self-righteousness, your despair, are washed away by grace. Your pride, your hypocrisy, and other people's opinions of you no longer define you. The Spirit lives and moves through you now, a great and joyful mystery, so you may bring love and mercy into the world as the body of Christ. Rejoice that God has claimed you in this baptismal grace, my fellow brothers and sisters in Jesus, not by your own doing or believing but by God's mercy alone.

As we begin worship, we give thanks to God for the gracious gift of baptism that joins us together in Christ by the Spirit's power. Amen!

GATHERING HYMN

On Jordan's Bank The Baptist's Cry

ELW #249



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite
Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God who watches over us, offering us hope, be with us this day as we hear the story of Jesus' baptism. Help us to remember your healing, cleansing, and claiming love for us. Remind us again of the many ways in which you reach out to us. May the image of the waters be for us an image of hope. Bring us closer to you, loving God. Embrace us again with your love. We open our hearts to you this day. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Acts 19:1-7

In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John's baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.

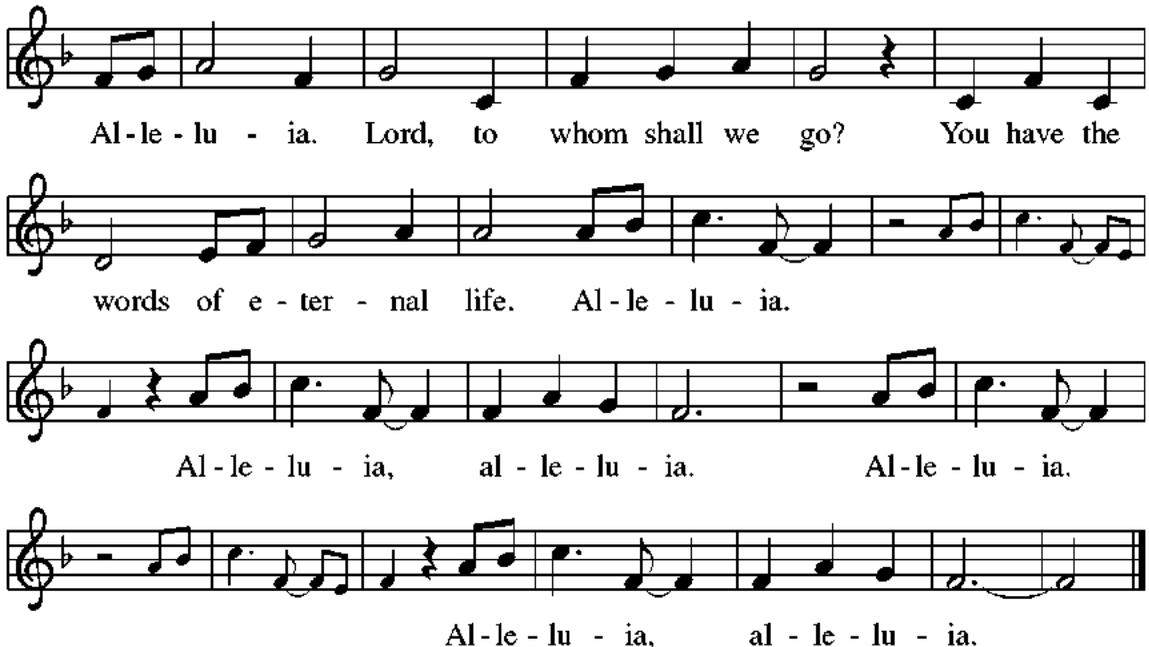
While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Director of Faith Formation, Carrie Jowers

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The holy gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:4-11

Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." ⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Howard Stendahl



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
 2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
 3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
 4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
 Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
 and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
 All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
 For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
 As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
 Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
 end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
 pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
 one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956
 Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner
 Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

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 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We pray for those in need, within our own community and throughout the world. We give thanks to God for the many blessings bestowed upon us. Our petitions end with "Let us pray" and the congregation responds: "Have mercy, O God"

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING MUSIC

(See page 15 for more.)

Shelter Me (based on Psalm 23) - Michael Joncas

Dr. Daniel Long, soloist

OFFERTORY

Let Our Talents and Tongues Employ

ELW #674



- 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!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925-1980

Text and music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together. O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus 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.

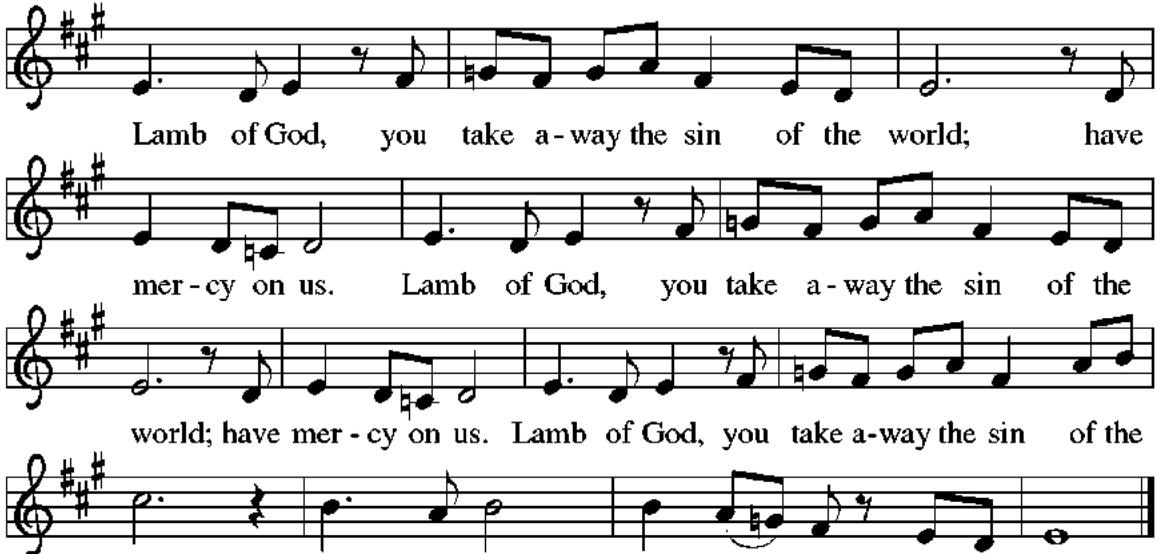
LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

DISTRIBUTION

Two thousand years ago Jesus ate with sinners and those whom others scorned. He still does. None of us is worthy, except by God's grace. No matter what you have done or what your present condition, Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and who seek to live in peace with one another.

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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together. Almighty God, **parent of all who call upon your name, in the waters of baptism and at this table you have transformed us, claiming us as your children, and recreating us through the work of your Son and the power of the Holy Spirit. Shower us once more with your grace that we might be renewed in your spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

God has laid claim to your life. By your baptism you have been marked as God's own forever. In grace may God watch over you. In strength may you go forth in service. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Let All Things Now Living

ELW #881



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and

God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
 sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;
 who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
 the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the
 still guides us on to the end of our days.
 deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.
 God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
 We too should be voic - ing our love and re -
 fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
 joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise
 till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
 till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To
 for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
 God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980, alt.
 Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
 Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
 Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Carillion - Eric Thiman

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Preaching Minister
Presiding Minister
Streaming
Guest Organist
Lector

9:30 a.m.

Pastor Howard Stendahl
Pastor Leslie Price
Sarah Loyd
Ed Rieke
Cyndi Erp-Long

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President Lori Harris
Vice President Michael Fischer
Treasurer Adam Braaten
Secretary Heather Rosenquist

At-Large Member Bryan Woods
At-Large Member Chris Fidao
At-Large Member David Hough

STAFF

Senior Pastor
Pastor
Director of Faith Formation
Director for Day School Ministry
Accountant & Office Manager
Office Administrator & AV Tech
Director of Music Ministry
Organist
Youth Choir Director
Youth Choir Accompanist
Asst. to Dir. of Faith Frmn. & Church Keeper
Custodian

Rev. Leslie Price
Rev. Howard Stendahl
Carrie Jowers
Dana Ferraro
Becky Richard
Jesus Garcia
Dr. Daniel Long
Jeff Hammack
Mary Villarreal
Sharon Wiedemann
Brandon Albrecht
Sam Tenorio

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Carolyn Dufelmeier, Lisa Diana, Patti Lynch, Allyson Pryor, Elward Reiss, Pam Sheffield, Laurie Stiteler, Bobby Stobb, Frank Pennington

WELCOME TEAM

Alice Anderson, Carolyn Dufelmeier, Chris Fidao, Lori Harris, Bob & Mary Lynn Logan, Bob & Karen Corder, Natalie Morgan – Chair, Mary Overstreet, Edna Robbins, Ida Marie Schultz

Special thanks to Mary Overstreet for creating such magnificent banners and also to John Malitz's crew for hanging them. We will be leaving them up until we return, so we will be joyously welcomed by them.

GUEST ORGANIST DR. ED RIEKE

Today

This Sunday we enjoy music by Dr. Ed Rieke on both organ and piano for all three services. We are grateful for the talent he shares with us while Jeff Hammack takes time off.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESCHOOL THROUGH 5TH GRADE

Every Sunday 9:00–9:25 a.m. with Ms. Carrie

Please use the Zoom link below to start our virtual lesson this Sunday!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81462654437?pwd=b0MzVkpgTHBrckhuNVlHSEdMRENpdz09>

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

Every Sunday 11:15 a.m.–12:00 p.m. In Person, Outdoors

Join us for in-person conversations related to the Bible with some fun social distancing games. Youth are encouraged to dress comfortably for worship.

CAMP CHRYSALIS Q&A ZOOM MEETING

Saturday, January 17, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. on Zoom

Camp Chrysalis for summer 2021?! Join Ms. Carrie on a special Zoom meeting to provide information on this year's summer camp. Come ready with questions and ready to hear how summer can still be fun. The dates for camp are June 13–18.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87188738941?pwd=SkFwYmVNNFZ2ZDRXUFl1U2RHM1pKOT09>

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR GROUP

Tuesday, January 19, at 7:00 p.m. CDT (Every Other Tuesday)

This group regularly meets every other Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. The class is led by Pastor H. Anyone can join even if you haven't read along with us yet or may be behind. Join in for good conversation and company. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85336915528> or 346-248-7799.

Those interested in participating in the 2021 "Read Through the Bible in a Year" are invited to contact Pastor H (hstendahl@clcah.org) or call the church office (210-822-3394) to indicate their intent to participate. Reading began on January 1 so please call or email.

JANUARY FAITH UNIVERSITY: *THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP*

Thursdays at 12:00 p.m. on Zoom

The Rev. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran pastor and theologian, was executed by hanging on April 9, 1945 at the Nazi concentration camp at Flossenbuerg, a mere 14 days before Allied forces liberated the area. This great martyr of the faith wrote his best known work, *The Cost of Discipleship*, in 1937, a book we will read and discuss in our Faith University series which begins again January 7, 2021 at noon, via Zoom. You may indicate your intention to participate by calling the church or notifying Pastor H at hstendahl@clcah.org. The Touchstone publisher version of the book is available at Amazon (https://www.amazon.com/Cost-Discipleship-Dietrich-Bonhoeffer/dp/0684815001/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=)

Thursdays at 12:00 p.m. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84309979713> or call 346-248-7799

MLK COMMEMORATION BY UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Tuesday, January 12, 6:00 p.m.

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, Isabel Wilkerson, will be the keynote speaker at the University of Chicago's commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The livestream will be at 6:00 p.m. January 12. PLEASE NOTE: there will be no recording of it available afterwards.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/UChicago>

MLK VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE BY CHURCH ANEW

Tuesday, January 12 & on demand after

Shared by our Synod, we invite you to join in a special MLK service from Church Anew that will be available on January 12 at this website <https://churchanew.org/mlk>

CHRIST IN OUR HOME DEVOTIONAL

Now available!

The latest issue of *Christ in Our Home* has finally arrived! For those who are interested in receiving a copy via postal mail, please email the office at office@clcah.org or call 210-822-3394 and specify whether you would like large or small print.

“Shelter Me” continued...

Father Joncas, well-known for the hymn “On Eagle’s Wings,” said his composition, “Shelter Me,” is a paraphrase of the well-known Psalm 23. “These are difficult times for all of us, individually and globally,” said Father Joncas in his composer’s note. “The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted life as normal and called for acts of corporate and individual heroism in the face of present suffering and an uncertain future. “People of faith may be struggling to articulate their belief in an all-good and all-powerful God in this new era,” he continued. ““Shelter Me’ is my attempt as a church composer to find God’s presence even in these fraught times.”The hymn’s first and third verses speak about past and future intimacy with God, while the second verse expresses the fear and anxiety that people are feeling as they experience danger, darkness, and lack of peace. The refrain, however, resounds with hope and trust that “all will be well” according to God’s loving mercy.



Sunday Worship Schedule

8:30 a.m. Outdoor In-Person

9:30 a.m. Livestream ONLY
(no in-door attendance)

10:45 a.m. Outdoor In-Person

Outdoor In-Person Worship: What to expect ...

- Please bring and utilize face masks.
- Chairs will be set up a minimum of 8 ft apart.
- Please sit only with your quarantine group.
- Communion elements will be offered in individual kits.
- Feel free to bring bread, wine, & chairs from home if you prefer.
- Services will be approximately 30 minutes in length.
- Use of indoor facilities will be discouraged unless necessary.
- If it's raining on Sunday morning, outdoor worship will be cancelled.
- If COVID cases spike in SA, outdoor worship will be cancelled at least 24 hours in advance & we will notify you via email & Facebook.
- While the risk of transmitting COVID is reduced by these measures, some risk still remains.

WE ARE A COMMUNITY OF FAITH THAT WELCOMES

All are welcome at Christ Lutheran Church. We emphasize grace, forgiveness, and the reality that God is love. The teachings and example of Jesus call us to love one another and to be an inclusive and affirming community for people of every culture, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, relationship status, family makeup, and spiritual background. No matter what challenges you're facing – physical, mental, spiritual, economic, emotional, moral, or otherwise – we invite you to experience God's grace with us. There is a place for you here.

THE VIRTUAL CLC ESSENTIALS

The Sunday podcast now includes enhanced audio of the full worship service, including the music. Click on the podcast button below to take a listen! If you have your phone then you can subscribe to the podcast and it will be sent to your phone on Sundays when it is posted.

Please tune in each Sunday through our website at clcah.org to join in worship starting at 9:30 a.m. to see the livestream of the Sunday service. You can also click the button below to our YouTube channel to see past worship services as they are archived.

We can still share in each others company and grow in faith even while social distancing. Carrie Jowers, our Director of Faith formation, is sending out content weekly via email for families with children and youth. Contact her at carrie.jowers@gmail.com to be added to the "Families of Faith" list.

Online giving is easy! Now that you have downloaded the bulletin on your phone or computer, simply click the link below and it will take you to the giving page to make your offering when you are ready. You can also use your phone to scan this QR code and it can take you to our donation page at <https://clcah.org/contact-us/give-online/>



Parts of the text, and also hymn music in this bulletin are from sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS003667.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.
