



# PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Epiphany

*28 January 2024*

The whole of the Old Testament points as a loadstone to Christ. But in particular, temple worship, its rites, its rituals, its furnishings, and its arrangements are so ordered as to indelibly impress the image of Jesus upon every readied heart.  
—Hutton Greaver

## GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

*It is God Himself who calls His people to worship. We do not call ourselves, but it is the King who opens His gates and beckons us into His courts.*

### Gospel Invitation—Romans 3:21, 23-25

The righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it ... All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith.

### Sung Response—Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing, Vs. 1

Come, Thou Fount of ev-'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mer-cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.  
Teach me some me-lo-dious son-net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed up-on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1758; Music: NETTLETON, Asahel Nettleton, 1825.

### Call to Worship—based on Revelation 5:9-13; 7:10

Pastor: Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne.

All: **Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.**

Reader 1: Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever!

Reader 2: You were slain, and by Your blood You ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and You have made them a kingdom and priests to our God.

All: **You are worthy, O Lord.**

Pastor: To You, O Lord, who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!

## Congregational Hymn—There's A Wideness In God's Mercy

The image shows a musical score for a congregational hymn. It consists of six systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;  
There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and more grac - es for the good;  
There is plen - ti - ful re - demp - tion in the blood that has been shed;  
It is God: His love looks might - y, but is might - ier than it seems;

There's a kind - ness in His jus - tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.  
There is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in His blood.  
There is joy for all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the Head.  
'Tis our Fath - er: and His fond - ness goes far out be - yond our dreams.

There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in Heaven;  
For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sure of our mind;  
Souls of men! why will ye scat - ter like a crowd of fright - ened sheep?  
Was there ev - er kind - er shep - herd half so gen - tle, half so sweet,

There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.  
And the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.  
Fool - ish hearts! why will ye wan - der from a love so true and deep?  
As the Sav - ior who would have us come and gath - er at His feet?

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1854; Music: HOLY MANNA, William Moore, 1825.

# GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

*The Bible is the means by which God graciously reveals Himself to His people—so we listen, read, and study with expectant hearts. God particularly entreats us in His Word to sing psalms. And while all Scripture is appropriate for hymns and spiritual songs, there is a specific exhortation for us to make use of the Psalter as the church's songbook.*

## Congregational Psalm—Answer, Father When I Call (Psalm 4)



An - swer, Fa - ther, when I call, O God of my right - eous - ness.  
How long will you, sons of men, turn my ho - nor in - to shame?  
Trem - ble now but then de - part, from all these be - set - ting sins;  
Ma - ny say "Who brings us good? Lift your light and bless the ground!"



You have giv - en me re - lief, when in deep dis - tress.  
How long will you love your lies, speak - ing them in vain?  
Me - di - tate with - in your heart, rest, be si - lent.  
But more joy is in my heart, Than when wine a - bounds.



An - swer Fa - ther, and be gra - cious to the ser - vant in Your care,  
Know the Lord has called the god - ly, made them ho - ly, one and all.  
Of - fer right - eous sa - cri - fi - ces; bring your faith un - to the judge.  
So in per - fect peace now rest - ing, I will both lie down and sleep



Show Your mer - cy in my trou - ble, O Lord hear my prayer;  
Know the Lord will sure - ly hear me when to Him I call;  
Lay your si - lent hearts be - fore Him; place in Him your trust;  
You a - lone, O Lord pro - tec - tor, my soul safe - ly keep;



O Lord hear my prayer.  
When to Him I call.  
Place in Him your trust.  
my soul safe - ly keep.

Text & Music: Nathan George, 2012.

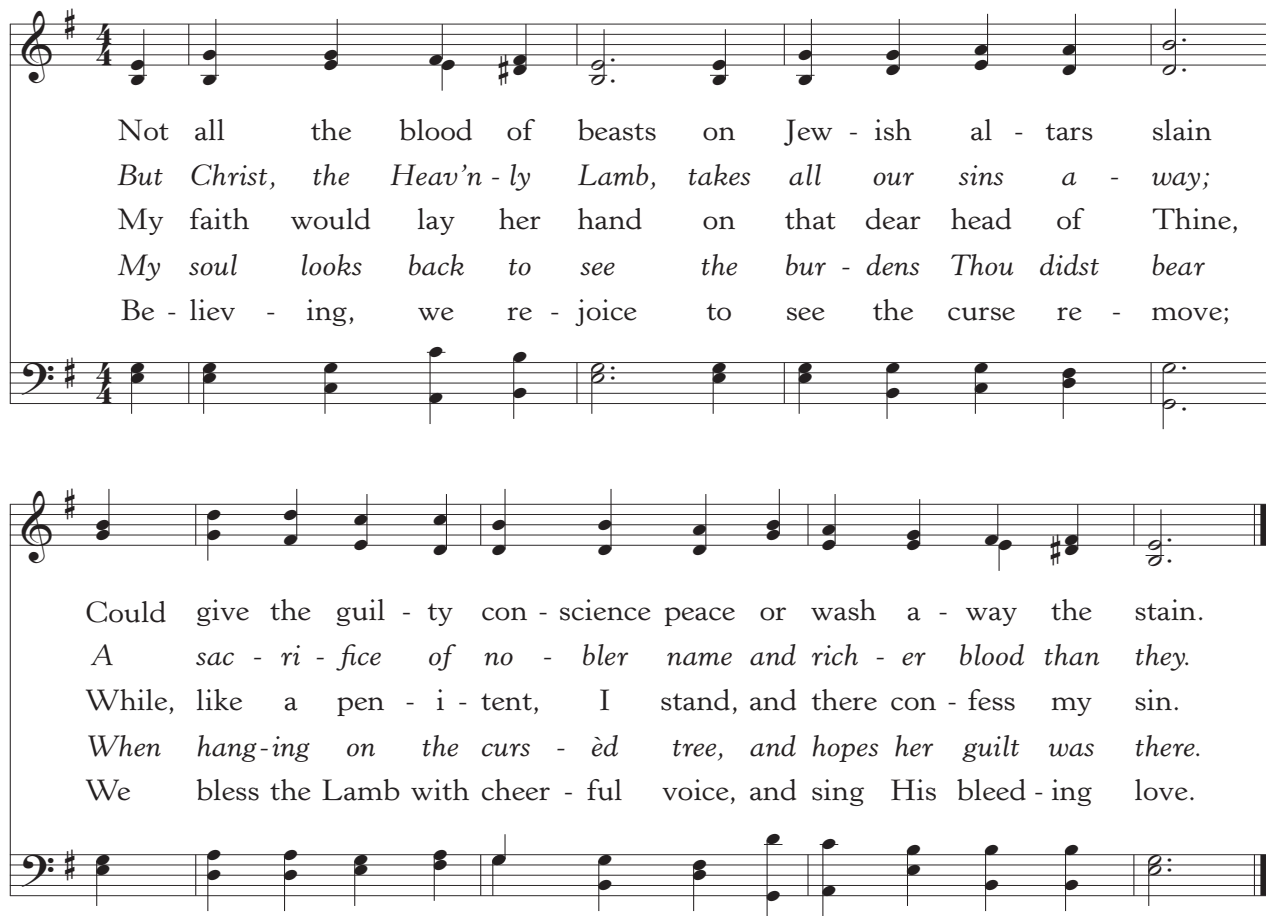
## Scripture Reading—1 Peter 1:13, 17b-19

Preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## Congregational Hymn—Not All The Blood Of Beasts



The image shows a musical score for a congregational hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The first system covers the first five lines of the hymn, and the second system covers the last five lines. The bass clef staff provides a harmonic accompaniment, primarily using chords and single notes.

Not all the blood of beasts on Jew - ish al - tars slain  
*But Christ, the Heav'n - ly Lamb, takes all our sins a - way;*  
My faith would lay her hand on that dear head of Thine,  
*My soul looks back to see the bur - dens Thou didst bear*  
Be - liev - ing, we re - joice to see the curse re - move;

Could give the guil - ty con - science peace or wash a - way the stain.  
*A sac - ri - fice of no - bler name and rich - er blood than they.*  
While, like a pen - i - tent, I stand, and there con - fess my sin.  
*When hang - ing on the curs - ed tree, and hopes her guilt was there.*  
We bless the Lamb with cheer - ful voice, and sing His bleed - ing love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1709, alt. 1961; Music: SOUTHWELL, William Damon, 1579.

## Reading of the Word—Hebrews 9:1-14

Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. <sup>2</sup>For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place. <sup>3</sup>Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place, <sup>4</sup>having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. <sup>5</sup>Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

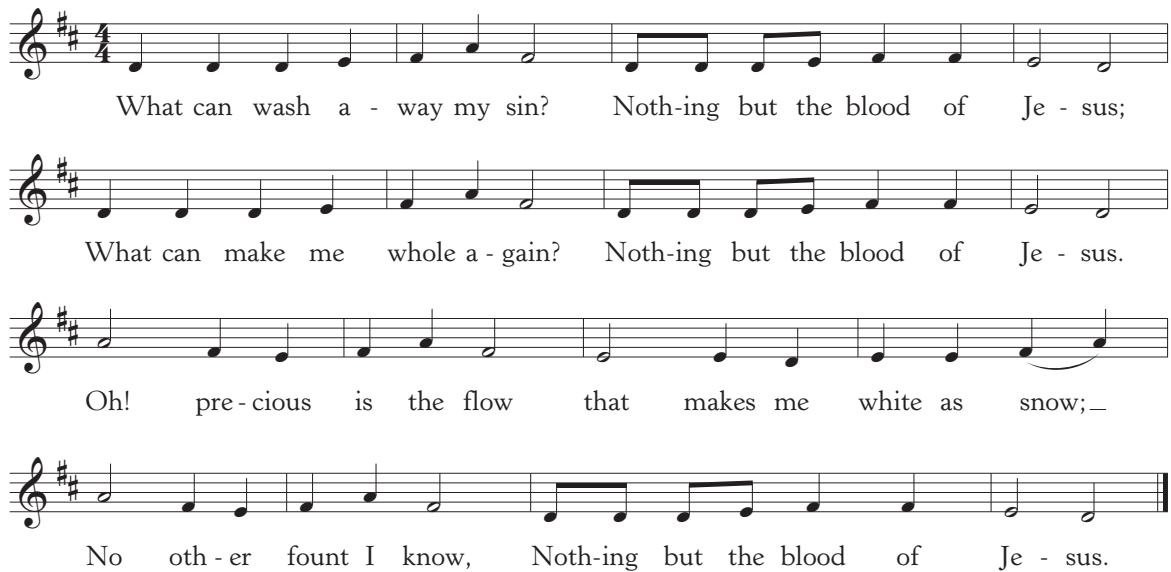
<sup>6</sup>These preparations having thus been made, the priests go regularly into the first section, performing their ritual duties, <sup>7</sup>but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people. <sup>8</sup>By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the holy places is not yet opened as long as the first section is still standing <sup>9</sup>(which is symbolic for the present age). According to this arrangement, gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper, <sup>10</sup>but deal only with food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until the time of reformation.

<sup>11</sup>But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) <sup>12</sup>He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. <sup>13</sup>For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, <sup>14</sup>how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## Sung Response—Nothing But The Blood, Vs. 1



What can wash a - way my sin? Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;  
What can make me whole a - gain? Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.  
Oh! pre - cious is the flow that makes me white as snow;—  
No oth - er fount I know, Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1876; Music: PLAINFIELD, Robert Lowry, 1876.

## Sermon—*Power in the Blood*

—Pastor Emeritus, Geroqe Grant

## GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, AND RECONCILIATION

*The people of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.*

### Confession of Sin—based on Daniel 9:4-5, 9-10, 18-19

Pastor: Lord, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love, we come confessing.

All: **We have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from Your commandments and rules.**

Pastor: To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness.

All: **We have rebelled against You and not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God.**

Pastor: We do not present our pleas before You because of our righteousness, but because of Your great mercy.

All: **O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay heed and act. Delay not, for Your own sake, O Lord, our God.**

*(Silent Prayers of Confession)*

## Sung Response—Kyrie

WOMEN

Lord have mer - cy — Christ have mer - cy —

MEN

Lord have mer - cy — Christ have mer - cy —

— Lord have mer - cy — Up - on us.

Lord have mer - cy — Up - on us.

Text: Traditional; Music: Nathan George & Henry C. Haffner, 2012.

## Assurance of Pardon—based on Romans 8:1, 12, 14-15; Matthew 11:28

Hear now the Gospel: there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Thus, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. You did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

**All: This is the Word of the Lord.**

Pastor: He says to us, “Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: Amen.

## Sung Response—Fivefold Amen

A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men, a - men.

Text: Traditional; Music: Traditional African-American Spiritual, arr. Nelsie T. Johnson, 1988.

# HEAVENLY GIFT—*EUCCHARISTO*

*As God beckons His people to the bounty of His table, they make joyous profession of their fealty to Him.*

## Profession of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God:

The Father Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and Earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,

Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell.

On the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

From whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit; the one holy church—both visible and invisible;

The communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;

The resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

*Amen.*

## Sursum Corda

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. Therefore, we praise You, Triune God, and we join our voices with the angels, the archangels, and the whole company of Heaven in this hymn of eternal praise:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly is the Lord God Al - might - y,  
Heav'n and Earth are full of Thy glor - y, glor - y be un - to Thee,  
O Lord most high, O Lord most high, O Lord most high, A - men.

Text: Traditional, based on Isaiah 6:3, Revelation 4:8;

Music: Nathan George, 2013.



# WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S TABLE

*This table is open to all baptized Christians who have made a profession of faith. You may come forward to receive the bread and wine or grape juice.*

## Congregational Hymn—Before The Throne Of God Above



Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per - fect plea.  
When Sa - tan tempts me to des - pair and tells me of the guilt with - in,  
Be - hold Him there the ris - en Lamb, my per - fect spot - less right - eous - ness,

A great High Priest whose name is Love who ev - er lives and pleads for me.  
Up - ward I look and see Him there who made an end of all my sin.  
The great un - change - a - ble I AM, the King of glo - ry and of grace,

My name is grav - en on His hands, my name is writ - ten on His heart.  
Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died my sin - ful soul is count - ed free.  
One in Him - self I can - not die. my soul is pur - chased by His blood,

I know that while in Heaven He stands no tongue can bid me thence de - part.  
For God the just is sat - is - fied to look on Him and par - don me.  
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Sav - ior and my God!

No tongue can bid me thence de - part.  
To look on Him and par - don me.  
With Christ my Sav - ior and my God!

CCLI #2844402 ©1997 Sovereign Grace Worship; Text: Charitie Bancroft, 1863; Music: Vikki Cook, 1997.

## Congregational Hymn—I Know That My Redeemer Lives



I know that my re - deem - er lives, glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!  
He lives to bless me with His love; glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!  
He lives to crush the fiends of hell; glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!

What com - fort this sweet sen - tence gives, glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!  
He lives to plead my cause a - bove; glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!  
He lives and doth with - in me dwell; glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!

Shout on, pray on, we're gain - ing ground, glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!

The dead's a - live, and the lost is found, glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1775; Music: ANTIOCH (SHOUT ON), F. C. Wood, *The Sacred Harp*, 1850; arr. Henry C. Haffner, 2017.

# GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE, PETITIONS, TITHES & OFFERINGS

*Our praying, serving, and giving are essential aspects of worship. It is here that our faith moves from our heads and hearts into our lives and callings.*

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession—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 evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

## Congregational Hymn—There Is A Fountain Filled With Blood

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are as follows:

There is a foun - tain filled with blood drawn from Em - man - uel's veins;  
The dy - ing thief re - joiced to see that foun - tain in his day;  
E'er since, by faith, I saw the stream Thy flow - ing wounds sup - ply,  
Dear dy - ing Lamb, Thy pre - cious blood shall nev - er lose its power,

And sin - ners plunged be - neath that flood lose all their guilt - y stains.  
And there have I, though vile as he, washed all my sins a - way.  
Re - deem - ing love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.  
Till all the ran - somed church of God be saved, to sin no more.

Lose all their guilt - y stains, lose all their guilt - y stains;  
Washed all my sins a - way, washed all my sins a - way;  
And shall be till I die, and shall be till I die;  
Be saved, to sin no more, be saved, to sin no more;

And sin - ners plunged be - neath that flood lose all their guilt - y stains.  
And there have I, though vile as he, washed all my sins a - way.  
Re - deem - ing love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.  
Till all the ran - somed church of God be saved, to sin no more.

Text: William Cowper, 1771; Music: FOUNTAIN, Lowell Mason, 1830.

# GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

*After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.*

## Benediction—based on Revelation 2:8-9

And now from Him who is the first and the last, who died and came to life, the Mighty One who saves us from tribulation and trouble: grace, peace, and joy both now and forevermore. *Amen.*

## Sung Response—Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;  
praise Him above ye heav'n-ly host: Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1674; Music: OLD 100TH, Louis Bourgeois, 1551.

## Announcements

## Worship Notes:

In the Old Testament God promised that He would send His Son as a sacrifice for every sin. He gave the twelve tribes of Israel a reminder that He would fulfill His covenant. This morning the writer of Hebrews reminds us that God has fulfilled His covenant. We join our voices with the whole company of heaven, from old Levitical priests to the engrafted gentiles, that we no longer need the picture of the sacrifice yet to come. The real sacrifice has been given. Christ, the heavenly Lamb takes all our sins away. The Lord answered when His people turned to Him and He gave the precious blood of Jesus to make His people whole again. It is no longer a sinful high priest who lives and pleads for us, but our Great High Priest whose name is Love. We have been plunged beneath the fountain of Emmanuel's veins and have lost all our guilty stains. Because God kept His covenant and gave the perfect spotless righteousness, we can sing, "Shout on we're gaining ground!" with the sure knowledge that our Redeemer lives, and He will come again. Glory! Hallelujah! —Emma Marsh

**Key Words:** Regulations, Earthly, Symbolic, Reformation, Greater, Blood, Eternal

**Keystone Verse:** He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. (Hebrews 9:12)



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### Elders

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Michael Mastroberti (973-879-1368)	Mike Miserocchi (594-3880)	Matt Morrison (482-5107)
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Phil Hutcheson Steve Nelson John Scherrer

### Deacons

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*All Biblical quotes taken from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.*