

Epiphany

January 4, 2026 – 11:00am

Greetings and Welcome

GATHERING

Call to Worship

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

**Sharing Christ's Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Gathering Hymn – “Angels from the Realms of Glory” ELW 275, vv. 1, 3, & 4

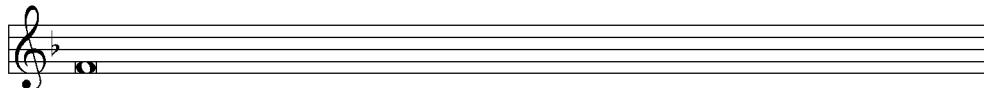
- 1 **Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;**
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 3 **Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;**
seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 4 **All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,**
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

**Kyrie*

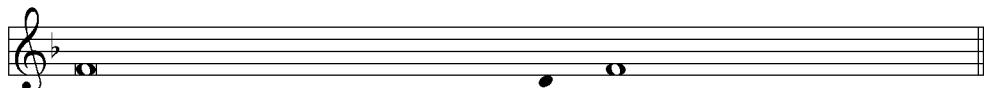
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

C Lord, have mer - cy.



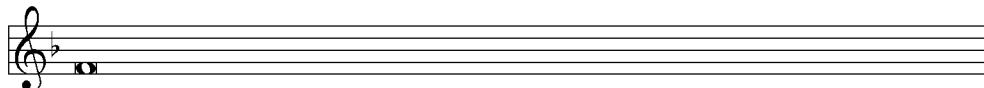
Ⓐ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Ⓒ Lord, have mer - cy.



Ⓐ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Ⓒ Lord, have mer - cy.



Ⓐ Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. ⓒ A - men

*Hymn of Praise



Ⓒ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ① Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was

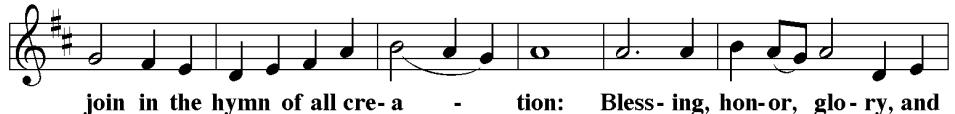


slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.


 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al- le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ¶ Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

 strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.


 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al- le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ① Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and


 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or, glo - ry, and


 might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.


 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al- le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ¶ For the Lamb who was


 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al- le - lu - ia, al- le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Prayer of the Day*

P The Lord be with you. C And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray.

God of Light and Life, from Magi following a star to disciples who walked with Jesus, you call people to follow you. Help us to hear your call, follow you, walk in your light, and bring your light to others.

C: Amen.

**Gospel Acclamation*

C 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.

WORD

**Gospel Reading:* Matthew 2:1-12 Reader: Patty Nelson

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.””

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

R: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Gospel Reading:* John 1:35-41

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When 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?” ³⁹He 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. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed).

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn – “As with Gladness Men of Old” ELW 302

- 1 **As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led by thee.**
- 2 **As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.**
- 3 **As they offered gifts most rare at thy cradle, rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.**
- 4 **Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.**
- 5 **In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing alleluias to our king.**

Sermon: "Come and See"

Hymn of the Day – “Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning” ELW 303, 1,3,4

- 1 **Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant redeemer is laid.**
- 3 **What shall we give him, in costly devotion?
Shall we bring incense and off'rings divine,
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?**

4 **Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favor secure;
richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.**

**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, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. 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.

**Prayers of Intercession*

Stewardship Time

Sandi Watts, organ

—We now have Worship Cards in the pews. Please let us know if you are communing, share a prayer request, and place your card in the offering plate as a gesture of stewardship as we grow in relationship with God through the use of our time, talents, and finances—

**The Offertory*

Let the vine - yards be fruit- ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath- er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

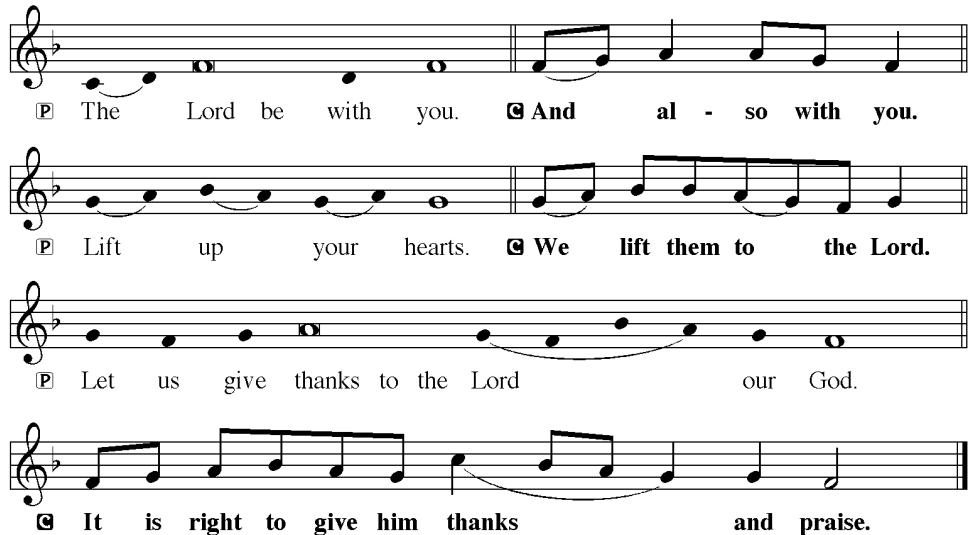
**Offering Prayer*

P: Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Great Thanksgiving



The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G clef. The lyrics are as follows:

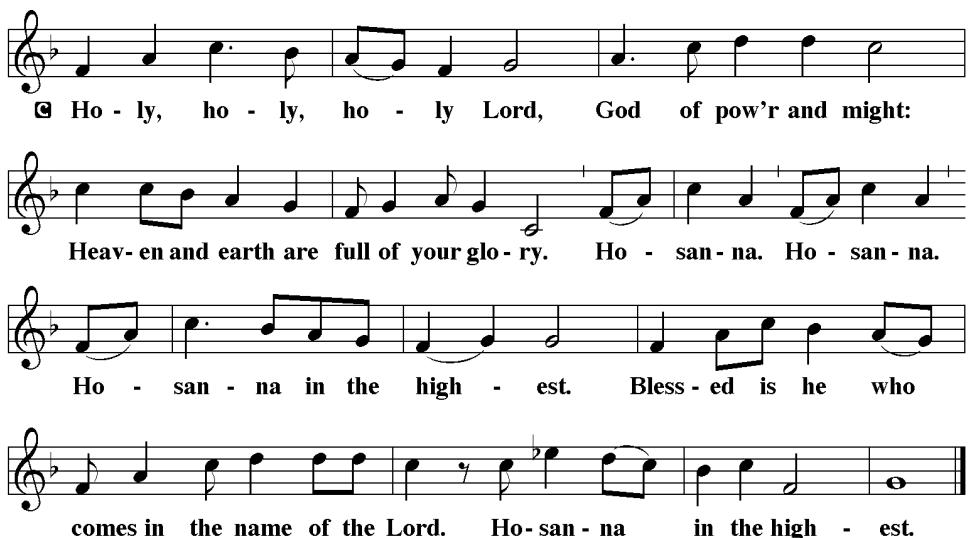
P The Lord be with you. C And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts. C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ... and join their unending hymn:



The musical notation consists of five staves of music in G clef. The lyrics are as follows:

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Words of Institution*

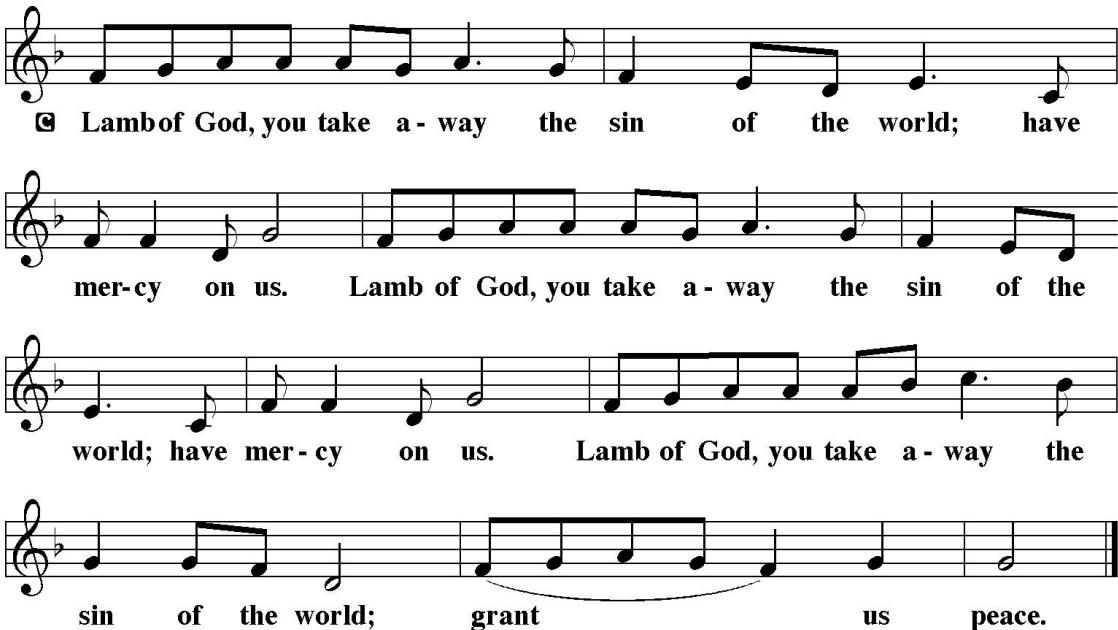
P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.

**Agnus Dei*



C Lam 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.

Communion Hymn

“What Feast of Love”
ELW 487
Instrumental

**Post-Communion Canticle*

Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proudly bear his name.

He re-calls his prom- is - es and leads his peo- ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks- giv - ing. Al- le - lu - ia. Al- le - lu - - ia.

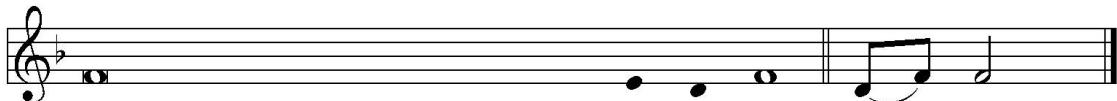
**Sending Prayer*

P: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

**Benediction*



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and **+** give you peace.

C A - men

**Sending Hymn – “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” ELW 310*

- 1 **Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;
manifested by the star to the sages from afar,
branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.**
- 2 **Manifest at Jordan's stream, prophet, priest, and king supreme;
and at Cana wedding guest in thy Godhead manifest;
manifest in pow'r divine, changing water into wine;
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.**
- 3 **Manifest in making whole weakened body, fainting soul;
manifest in valiant fight, quelling all the devil's might;
manifest in gracious will, ever bringing good from ill:
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.**
- 4 **Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, present in thy holy word;
grace to imitate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we might become like thee at thy great epiphany,
and may praise thee, ever blest, God in flesh made manifest.**

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Song Credits

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Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Kay Schnitker

Reader: Patty Nelson

Usher: Patty Nelson

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Organist: Sandi Watts

Financial Assistants: Patty Nelson & Kay Schnitker

Chancel Committee: Pat Glyshaw

Coffee Host: Kay Schnitker

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson Marilyn Dichsen

Ken Devlin Kelly Hartz

Greg Kimler

Patty Nelson

Monica Proefrock

Kay Schnitker

Kelly Street



What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, January 4, 9:30am: Contemporary Worship

11:00am: Traditional Worship

Wednesday, January 7, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

Sunday, January 11, 9:30am: Worship

Tuesday, January 13, 5:15pm: Worship Core Team Meeting

Wednesday, January 14, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

The poinsettias were donated by members and friends of Faith

News Updates

Lay Ministry Sign-Up Sheets

Sign-Up Sheets are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You! We are Gifted to Serve!**

Contribution Envelopes for 2026 are available in the gathering area to start using in January. If you don't see a box with your name on it, please talk to Kris Roth, Barb Davenport, or Pam Devlin.

Annual Reports

Anyone who would like to have an **Annual Report** included in the Annual Report Packets for 2025, please have your report to the church office (by e-mail is preferred) **by January 11**. The Annual Meeting will be held on January 25, and we need time to duplicate the reports into a packet to distribute on Sunday, January 18.

Read the Bible in a Year

Join us in reading the Bible over the course of a year, **starting on Wednesday, January 7 at 10:00am in the Faith Library** (this new group will take the place of the Discipleship Group). We will gather weekly to discuss our insights and reflections. We'll be utilizing The Bible Recap by Tara-Leigh Cobble, available on the YouVersion Bible app, to guide our journey. For more information, feel free to reach out to Pam Devlin. A sign-up sheet is available in the Gathering Area. People should start reading January 1 and read assigned daily readings from The Bible Recap so that we can discuss what we read.

Music is a Great Way to Connect!

We are always looking for people to sing or play special music for a prelude or a stewardship offering. Please contact Jean Welch if you are interested in sharing your musical gifts. jrwelch53@msn.com or 217-652-7009 (phone/text)

Post-Service Discussions after Worship resume in January

Next Sunday, grab some refreshments and join us in the Justice Room to further encounter the readings – and the sermon. *Naomi Hahn*

Doorbell Dinners

Our next time to deliver is **January 12-16**. A sign-up sheet is available in the gathering area on the counter by the Coffee Sales.

Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea

Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange. Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display (**\$9.00** regular & decaf, **\$3.00** tea). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “coffee” designated in the memo area.

Pillars Giving Tree

Bring Christmas Joy to the Children at the Pillars of Africa Children’s Ministry

This Christmas season, we again have the opportunity to share the love of Christ with the children at the Pillars of Africa Children’s Ministry. The Giving Tree in the gathering area is adorned with ornaments, each representing a child and their needs this Christmas. Choose an ornament, make your donation payable to HUGS, and place it in the offering box.

Your generosity will bring joy and hope to these precious children, reminding them that they are loved and valued. Thank you for helping make this Christmas a special one for those in need. For questions or more details, please contact Melissa Street, Kevin Krohe, or Patty Nelson. Thank you for being a blessing this holiday season!

Prayer and Meditation

Prayer and meditation are ways that we invite God into our lives and into those for whom we pray. The health challenges facing Marilyn Dichsen have focused our congregation's attention on the importance of prayers for healing cancer in a gifted young woman. Marilyn's challenges have also brought to our attention all who are struggling with physical and mental health issues. Faith members are encouraged to pray for all who are in need wherever you might find yourself. The church sanctuary is open during regular church office hours (Tuesday-Friday, 9:00-1:00) for members to stop by and spend quiet time praying for Marilyn, her family, and all those who are in need of prayer. A prayer book is available at the back of the sanctuary by the tech station, along with the names of those who have been included in worship prayers and our prayer chain. Please sign your name and record your prayers or words of encouragement, if you so desire. The hope is that the time for prayer and meditation will be incorporated into our lives and the life of our congregation as a continuing ministry.