

The Worship of God

January 14, 2018

I am the **light** of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness
but will have the **light** of life.

— John 8.12

Gathering at God's Invitation

Music for Gathering

Marietta Mobley *piano*

Christ Candle

Carter Bland

Opening Sentences

Rev. Alan Sherouse

Piano Voluntary

Fairest Lord Jesus

Tedd Smith

†Invocation

Terri Vancil

Blessed are you, God of all creation.
You spoke in the beginning, and all things came to be.
**You spoke, and your Word came to live with us,
full of grace and truth.**

Bless this place where we would hear your voice.
Bless this place where we would hear your story.

As we listen, may our ears be attuned to you.
As the Word is spoken and sung, may you speak to us.
**May all we hear lead us to do your will.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

†Hymn of Praise 115

CRUSADER'S HYMN

Fairest Lord Jesus
Please omit stanza four.

†Words of Friendship

Sarah Parker, Interim Youth Minister

A Family Covenanting

Rev. Sherouse
Rev. Darnysha Nard

Edward Ruffin Batten IV, son of E.B. and Lacey Batten

Hearing God's Word

During the congregational verse, children ages four through first grade may attend Junior Church and return to the sanctuary after the sermon.

Congregational Verse

ANCIENT WORDS

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Ho-ly words long pre-served for our walk in this world, they re -

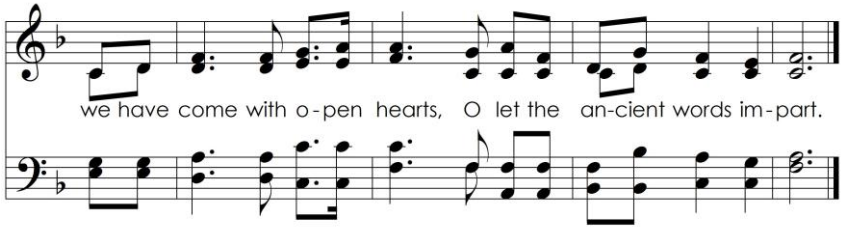


sound with God's own heart; O let the an-cient words im - part.



An-cient words ev-er true, chang-ing me and chang-ing you;

continued



Opening of God's Word

Alex Porter

Prayers of God's People

Rev. Nard

Scripture Lesson

Sermon

Rev. Sherouse

Responding to God's Word

†Hymn 72

To God Be the Glory

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Musical Interlude

Offertory Prayer

Molly Lyle, deacon

Choral Offering

Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree

Mark Patterson

Youth Choir, Baker Lawrimore, Music Intern *directing*
Cynthia Hartis *accompanist*

As an apple tree among the trees of the wood,
so is my beloved among young men,
With great delight I sat in his shadow
and his fruit was sweet to my taste.
He brought me to the banqueting house,
and his intention toward me was love.

—Song of Solomon 2.2-4

*The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green:
the trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree.*

*This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive:
which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ, the apple tree.*

*His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know but ne'er can tell,
the glory which I now can see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.*

*For happiness I long have sought and pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.*

—anonymous, 18th century based on Song of Solomon 2.3

Sending into God's World

†Benediction

Rev. Sherouse

†Congregational Response

CRUSADER'S HYMN



Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!



Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion now



and for - ev - er - more be thine! A - men!

Guests are warmly welcomed today. There are several ways in which we can become better acquainted. During the **Words of Friendship** we will share a personal greeting with those sitting around us. You will find a **Connection Card** in the bulletin that can be filled out and dropped in the offering plate as it is passed in the service. **Ministers** will also be greeting worshipers at each exit door after the service.