

SUNDAY WORSHIP

January 22, 2023

PRELUDE *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* L. Smith

WELCOME & PRAYER

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (from Psalm 27)

L: *The Lord is my light and my salvation—*

C: whom shall I fear?

L: *The Lord is the stronghold of my life—*

C: of whom shall I be afraid?

INSTALLING NEW CONSISTORY MEMBERS

***HYMN** *Immortal, Invisible* Black #1; vv. 1,3,4

PRAYER OF CONFESSION(from Psalm 139 & 19)

***A: Search me, God, and know my heart;
Test me and know my anxious thoughts.
Point out anything in me that offends You,
and lead me along the path of everlasting life.***

-Silence for personal confession-

***A: May the words of our mouths and the
meditations of our hearts be acceptable in Your
sight, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer.***

ANTHEM *Chosen to Serve* Choir

SCRIPTURE *John 1:9-14* (p. 1509)

RESPONSE

L: *The word of God for our good.*

A: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE *The Giver*

PRAYING WITH AND FOR ONE ANOTHER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY *Blessed Quietness* James Kirk

*DOXOLOGY

***HYMN** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Black #43; vv. 1,3,4

MISSION MOMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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A **chili cook-off** in Fellowship Hall follows the morning service. Come to taste—and vote!

In next Sunday's Adult Forum (10.30-11.15am), enjoy a **virtual tour of Israel** as Pastor Dan reports on his recent trip. In February, the tour heads to Rome. Both sessions highlight parts of the world where so much in Scripture took place.

Join a **St. Thomas work team** at the Midwest Food Bank on Wed, Jan 25, 8.45a-noon.

Save the date: There's an **all-church ice cream social** hosted by Planning & Leadership on Feb 26, 5pm.

The Discretionary Fund is available for friends and members with financial needs. For more information, contact Wanda.

Hearing assistance devices connected to the sound system are available each Sunday--check the windowsills on either side of the sanctuary.

ORDINATION & INSTALLATION

INTRODUCTION

LEADER Today we recognize those who will serve St. Thomas as deacons and elders in this new year. In doing this, we reflect on the many ways God's people are called and equipped to serve. As the apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians and Ephesians, "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them."

PEOPLE There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.

LEADER There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each one for particular service.

PEOPLE To each one, the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

LEADER The body is a unit, though made up of different parts—and you are the body of Christ.

PEOPLE May there be no division in this body; may each part have concern for every other part.

LEADER In Christ, the whole body grows, and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

PRESENTATION

LEADER Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for serving in and through a local church. Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the Spirit's help, in Christ's name, and for the glory of God?

RESPONSE

ORDINATION

LEADER May the Holy Spirit strengthen you for ministry in Christ's church, and equip you with everything good for doing God's will. Receive authority for carrying out this ministry in the name of Christ among those in and connected with the congregation of St. Thomas UCC.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

LEADER Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

RESPONSE

RECOGNITION

LEADER Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able now rise and express their commitment to this?

PEOPLE We celebrate the joy that is ours to be partners with you in kingdom ministry.

We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you so that together, with the help of God's Spirit, we may be a faithful church to the glory of the Lord and the blessing of many.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

PRAYER

DECLARATION