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Live Service Audio: 940-322-1100

First Sunday after Christmas Day – January 1, 2023

THE GATHERING

Please let us know you're here by texting FCC to 77411.

Prelude Debbie Watson

Welcome & Call to Worship Claire Baer

Opening Hymn No. 67

O God, Our Help in Ages Past – vs. 1, 3, 4, & 6
***O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!***
***Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,
from everlasting, thou art God, to endless years the same.***
***A thousand ages, in thy sight, are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.***
***O God, our help in ages, past, our hope for years to come,
be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.***

Opening Prayer & Lord's Prayer Claire Baer

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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION

Children's Message Claire Baer

A Service of Covenant Renewal

Introduction

Litany of Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks for all of God's mercies.

O God, our Covenant Friend,
you have been gracious to us through all the years of our lives.
We thank you for your loving care,
which has filled our days and brought us to this time and place.

We praise your holy name, O God.

You have given us life and reason,
and set us in a world filled with your glory.
You have comforted us with family and friends,
and ministered to us through the hands of our sisters and brothers.

We praise your holy name, O God.

You have filled our hearts with a hunger after you,
and have given us your peace.
You have redeemed us, and called us to a high calling in Christ Jesus.
You have given us a place in the fellowship of your Spirit
and the witness of your Church.

We praise your holy name, O God.

You have been our light in darkness
and a rock of strength in adversity and temptation.
You have been the very Spirit of joy in our joys
and the all-sufficient reward in all our labors.

We praise your holy name, O God.

You remembered us when we forgot you.
You followed us even when we tried to flee from you.
You met us with forgiveness when we returned to you.
For all your patience and overflowing grace.

We praise your holy name, O God.

Old Testament Scriptures:

Deuteronomy 31:9-13, 2 Kings 23:1-3, Jeremiah 31:31-34

Anthem *Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine* – words by Charles Wesley Chancel Choir

New Testament Scriptures

1 Peter 1, Matthew 25:14-30, John 15:1-8

Proclamation

Invitation

Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants.
Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him.
Christ has many services to be done.
Some are more easy and honorable,
others are more difficult and disgraceful.

Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests,
others are contrary to both.
In some we may please Christ and please ourselves.
But then there are other works where we cannot please Christ
except by denying ourselves.
It is necessary, therefore,
that we consider what it means to be a servant of Christ.

Let us, therefore, go to Christ, and pray:

**Let me be your servant, under your command.
I will no longer be my own.
I will give up myself to your will in all things.**

Be satisfied that Christ shall give you your place and work.

Anthem

Covenant Prayer - Forrest

Chancel Choir

Christ will be the Savior of none but his servants.
He is the source of all salvation to those who obey.
Christ will have no servants except by consent;
Christ will not accept anything except full consent
to all that he requires.
Christ will be all in all, or he will be nothing.

Confirm this by a holy covenant.

To make this covenant a reality in your life, listen to these admonitions:

First, set apart some time, more than once,
to be spent alone before the Lord;
in seeking earnestly God's special assistance
and gracious acceptance of you;
in carefully thinking through all the conditions of the covenant;
in searching your hearts
whether you have already freely given your life to Christ.
Consider what your sins are.
Consider the laws of Christ, how holy, strict, and spiritual they are,
and whether you, after having carefully considered them,
are willing to choose them all.
Be sure you are clear in these matters, see that you do not lie to God.

Second, be serious and in a spirit of holy awe and reverence.

Third, claim God's covenant,
rely upon God's promise of giving grace and strength,
so you can keep your promise.
Trust not your own strength and power.

Fourth, resolve to be faithful.
You have given to the Lord your hearts,
you have opened your mouths to the Lord,
and you have dedicated yourself to God.
With God's power, never go back.

And last, be then prepared to renew your covenant with the Lord.

O righteous God, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
see me as I fall down before you.
Forgive my unfaithfulness in not having done your will,
for you have promised mercy to me
if I turn to you with my whole heart. Amen.

THE RESPONSE

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Communion Hymn

Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face – vs. 1, 2 & 4

No. 416

***Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face;
here would I touch and handle things unseen;
here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,
and all my weariness upon thee lean.***

***Here would I feed upon the bread of God;
here drink with thee the royal wine of heav'n;
here would I lay aside each earthly load;
here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiv'n.***

***Feast after feast thus comes and passes by;
yet, passing, points to the glad feast above -
giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
the Lamb's great bridal feast of bliss and love.***

Invitation to the Table and Words of Institution

Alan Freeman

Prayers for the Bread & Cup

Chris Showalter & Fred Gentry

Partaking of the Bread and Cup

All believers are invited to share in the Lord's Supper.

I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

THE OFFERING

Moment for Mission

Brooke Reid

Offertory

If My People Will Pray - Owens

Teresa Archambo, solo

*Doxology

No. 46

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below:
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.***

*Offertory Prayer

THE SENDING

Sent from the Table & Invitation to Discipleship

Dr. Mark Bender

Closing Hymn

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand – vs. 1, 2 & 4

No. 725

***God of the ages, whose almighty hand
leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,***

our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

*Thy love divine hath led us in the past;
in this free land with thee our lot is cast;
be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay,
thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.*

*Refresh thy people on our toilsome way;
lead us from night to never ending day;
fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.*

Benediction

Jeanette Showalter

Postlude

Debbie Watson

CCLI License #504653

Memorials and Honors

In memory of Sam Maynor given by Vinny Lewis' Business Solutions.

In memory of Judy Clymer given by Dee Ann & Noros Martin.

The rose on the Communion Table this morning is in honor of Jack Overton Harland. Jack Overton Harland was born on December 19th. He is the son of Sara & Lance Harland; grandson of Jane & Randy Long; great-grandson of Sara Anderson & Donna Long.

CALENDAR

Sunday, January 1 New Year's Day		
NO	Worship Service	Chapel
9:30 am	Sunday School	
NO	Journey Through Scripture	Parlor
10:45 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary/ Livestream
	NO Sunday Evening Activities	
Monday, January 2		
	Church Building, Offices & All Programs Closed	
Tuesday, January 3		
9:30 am	FCC Staff Meeting / Worship Planning	Room 310
	Young Ages School Teacher In-Service	
6:30 pm	Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups Anger Management, Parenting, Rebuilding Your Life,	Rooms 304-308
Wednesday, January 4		
7:00 am	Elders' Breakfast	Room 405
9:00 am	CCF Spanish	Room 300
1:00 pm	Stretch Class	Parlor
5:30 pm	Brown Bag Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
6:00 pm	Neighborhood Worship Service	Fellowship Hall
6:00 pm	First Kidz (PreK-5th Grade)	Room 402/405
7:00 pm	Youth Activities (Grades 6-12)	Room 403/Gym
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir (Grades 9-Adults)	4902 Andria
Thursday, January 5		
9:00 am-12:00 pm	Young Ages Preschool "YAS" Classes Resume (Th-F)	
10:00 am	YAS Chapel	Chapel
Friday, January 6		
9:00 am	CCF Music	Room 300
10:00 am	YAS Chapel	Chapel
Saturday, January 7		
10:00 am	Rise Against Hunger	Fellowship Hall