



Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters. . . the rivers. . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

COMMUNITY IN CHRIST

For just as the body is one and has many members...so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.... If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it (1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 26). Because the worshipping members of Jerusalem have a significantly higher vaccination rate than our county, that, together with recommendations from the CDC and ecumenical church worship guidelines, has been prayerfully considered by our leaders for our worship practices. Therefore at this time in the Covid pandemic we are worshipping in this way:

WELCOME

- **IN-PERSON WORSHIPERS**, please leave the first few spaces in the front parking lot for parking lot worshipers. Further information on page 2.
- **IN-PARKING LOT WORSHIPERS**, please park in the first few spaces closest to Dock Street and tune your radio to **90.1 FM**.
- **VISITORS**, we welcome you! In this uncertain time of a pandemic, we believe that grace-filled love of God made known in Jesus Christ, and proclaimed in scripture, prayer, and worship sustains us even now. We are glad that you are here with us, so that together, we all can receive the Good News of Jesus Christ, and then be strengthened in daily love for God and our neighbors.

LARGE PRINT WORSHIP binders are available in the church lobby.

HOLY COMMUNION

Baptism of Our Lord – January 16th, 2022

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

570-385-2657 * www.jerusalem.lutheran.com

POLICIES ON MASKS AND DISTANCING

- Everyone needs to wear a mask until the local pandemic subsides.
- We have lots of space in which to worship, so we can spread throughout the nave for each service, and we will continue to tape off alternating pews to maintain a safer distance.

CURRENT WORSHIP PRACTICES

- We have resumed congregational speaking and singing in the building.
- Hymnals are available in the pew racks, and distributed to and collected from people worshipping in the parking lot.
- Large print worship binders are available inside. Those worshipping in the parking lot can request large print from an usher.
- Wine and grape juice are once again being offered from the chalice inside, with intinction being offered outside. Please space yourselves as you come forward.
- The offering plates are in the back of the sanctuary by the door until we can safely pass the plates through many hands.

HOLY COMMUNION

Baptism of Our Lord – January 16th, 2022
Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church
252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
570-385-2657 * www.jerusalemchurch.com
FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Two Sinfonias

Bach/arr. E. Power Biggs

The bell rings calling us to worship.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

p. 97

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Red Hymnal # 311

GREETING

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:1-7

The assembly inside is seated.

¹But now thus says the LORD,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
⁴Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
⁵Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
⁶I will say to the north, “Give them up,”
and to the south, “Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
⁷everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 29

¹Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.
²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God’s name;
worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.**
³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.
⁴**The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor.**
⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;
⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**
⁷The voice | of the LORD
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.
⁸**The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.**
⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, “Glory!”
¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**
¹¹O LORD, give strength | to your people;
give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace.

SECOND READING

Acts 8:14-17

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come

upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus).
¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly inside stands to welcome the gospel.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor James Covert

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Borning Cry

Red Hymnal # 732

The assembly stands. All proclaim the word of God in song.

APOSTLES CREED

We confess our faith with the whole church using the ancient baptismal creed that summarizes the teaching of the scripture and the apostles.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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

As a local assembly of believers, we pray for the whole world and church, as well as our local congregation and neighborhood.

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

A brief silence.

By the Holy Spirit, you gather your church and send it out in mission to share the good news of Jesus. Inspire your faithful people to be fervent in prayer and service, that all people know they are precious in God's sight. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You reveal your love and power through water and the Spirit. Guard rivers, seas, and all bodies of water from destruction and pollution. Secure access to clean water for all, and protect the land from drought and flood. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Establish among the nations the blessings of peace. Raise up leaders who will protect vulnerable people in their care. Strengthen advocates who risk reputation or retaliation for the sake of mercy and justice. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You protect us through the fires and troubled waters of this life. Assure us that we will not be cut off from you by illness or despair, anxiety or pain, confusion or weakness. Comfort all who are in need. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We are joined in baptism to Christ and to one another. Bless those who are newly baptized and those who are preparing for baptism. Help us to be faithful in fellowship, worship, evangelism, service, and justice-seeking. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sustaining Spirit, who lives and breathes in us and with us, bring comfort and peace to all who have been devastated by tornadoes, wildfires, and winter storms. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We thank you, Lord God that you love us so deeply and want to be in relationship with us every moment. Open our eyes to see your constant presence with us that we may find your graces in our everyday lives and grow more in love with you! God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We pray for all in need during the COVID pandemic. For all who are tired, feeling despair, sick, or oppressed. Take their yoke upon you and ease their burdens. Give your consolation and free us from all that keeps us bound. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You created each of your saints for your glory. We give thanks for those you have called by name into your eternal embrace. Comfort us in grief and release us from fear. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Pastor: Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

We greet each other with a nod or gesture of Christian fellowship from a distance, and we also invite you to text or email a word of peace to someone. The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANTHEM

Down Galilee's Slow Roadways

All Creation Sings Hymnal # 916

MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister invites the assembly to give thanks.

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff has the lyrics: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." The second staff has the lyrics: "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The melody is simple and consists of quarter and eighth notes.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The presiding minister continues with the communion preface; and then the assembly responds with “Holy, Holy, Holy.”

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER # 3

... Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
 we remember your word
 dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth
 in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God,
 we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

INSIDE WORSHIPERS: Ushers will dismiss you by pew, then please allow a six-foot distance from other households as you approach the altar by the center aisle (tape marks in the center aisle are a helpful guide). Please take an empty glass if you wish to receive wine, or a glass prefilled with grape juice. The pastor will place the consecrated wafer into your outstretched palms so that you may receive the body of Christ. Then proceed to one of the chalices where the wine will be poured, or where you will drink the prefilled glass. Those not receiving Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a no-touch blessing.

OUTSIDE WORSHIPERS: The Lord's Supper will be brought to those outside by a Communion Assistant, who will use an intinction set so that the consecrated wafer can be dipped in the grape juice, in order to receive the loving body and blood of Christ.

COMMUNION HYMN

Come, Share the Spirit

Purple Hymnal # 1045

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, O God,
that you have fed us at your table
with bread and wine beyond compare,
the very life of Christ for us.
Send your Spirit with us now,
that we may set the captive free,
use your gifts to build one another up,
and in everything reflect your glory
revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly may be seated.

TEMPLE TALK

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.
The God of glory shine within you
and the love of God touch all who are around you.
The blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and may you be a blessing for God.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

Red Hymnal # 304

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.
Go in peace. Christ is your light.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may leave immediately after the dismissal, or those wishing to stay to listen to the full prelude may leave later.

POSTLUDE

Recessional

Douglas Wagner

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PRAYER LIST

Joyce Freed, Shirley Foose, Lee Miller, Joanna Sirianni Edwards, Ed Freed, Pauline Crawshaw, Karen Tropp, Diane Buffington, Jack Harnock, Marie Harnock, Keith Shoener, Tom Gerber, Kelly Carl, Cheryl Feeser, Leslie R., Mary Beth (Krater) Dinneen, Stewart Haver, Sue Sigler, Robert Schwartz, Craig Bracken, Paul Calderone, Nicholas LaScala, Gail Kunkel, Lee Llewellyn, Dennis Heydt, Caroline Eister, Jeanette Stine, Christopher Payonk, Seth Ney, Renee Shade, Ben Moyer, Gaylene Ebling, Wally Foose, Craig Heffner, Jane Deibert, Judy Reihman, Tom Cook, Sylvia Edling, Joe Dewald, Ronald Bromwell, Lisa Weiser, Janest Yost, Anna Mae Berger, Madge Miller, Melissa Focht, Jason Brown, Teagan Brown, Brenda Phillips, Cecelia Kacmar, Melanie Hart, Janice Moore, Christie O'Dell, John Cooper, Clarence Zweizig, Melvin Rodriguez & family, JoAnn Baker Copley, Carlene Wenner, Christy Deaton Stocks, Maria Motto, Katharine Macnutt, Peter Spontak, Kim O'Donnell, Leslie Wagner, Mateo Thomas, Barry Heffner, Phyllis Trinca Czech, Ed Sirianni, Stephen Edwards, Lester Aungst III, Christa Miller, Cathy Covach-Hale, Rev. Bruce MacLaughlin, Nancy Blank, Mary Miller, Rose Martin-Fuls, Earle Kull, Trent Johnson, Nancy Cooper, Kevin Seibert, Mary Rauch, Tom Lokitus, Albert Tripp, Dorothy Moyer, Helen Fath, Diana Vasquez, Dorothy & Dan Ness, Robin Moran, Kendra Johnson, Deb Esposito, Rob Baessler

Those with Long-term health issues:

Bonnie Jean Foose, Michelle Ochenrider, Rich & Sandy Moyer, Ethan Yost, Elizabeth Taylor, Carol Landes, Janice Barr, Donna Direnzo, Jim Musico, John Krater, Fawn Goodman, Rebecca Marshall, Sapphire Schaeffer, Mark Wyllie, Krysta Kolbe, Shirley Emrich, Anna Heffner, David Wise, Donna Leashefski, Florence Clemens, Chuck Copley, Jeff Kamar, Mary Sewalt, Pat Thomas, Nathan Resch, Casey Watson, Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer, Gemma Geary, Harold & Fay Sausser

Those serving in the Armed Forces:

Major Michael Shay, Staff Sgt. Joseph Moyer, Senior Airman Matthew Nettles, Airman Jackie Nettles, 2nd LT Heather Strouse, Sgt. Travis D. Miller, Sgt. Anthony Cooper, Private 3rd Class Caleb Levan

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR TODAY

	8:00am	10:30am
Assisting Minister	Lou Messina	Linda Covert
Lector	Laurie Bedford	Rob Baessler
Communion Assistants	Karen Ochenrider	Rebekah CdeBaca
Ushers	Bill Shay Conner Roeder	Tom Gohsler Amy Gohsler
Sound Board	Paul Boyer	Gary Reager
Counters	Lou Messina and Janet Sattizahn	

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

	8:00am	10:30pm
Assisting Ministers	Karen Ochenrider	Rob Baessler

Lectors	Julie Coleman	Bob McCloy
Communion Assistants	Jean Loose	James Covert
Ushers	Faith Batz	Tom Gohsler
	John Macnutt	Amy Gohsler
Sound Board	Melissa Boyer	Rachel Kramer
Counters	Linda Collins, Deb Reed, and Marie Shay	

THE FLOWERS IN THE ALTAR VASES are to the Glory of God, celebrating with all in sacrament of Holy Baptism by Lloyd and Joanne Wertz.

PASTOR MICHAEL PETRESKY from St. Paul's Lutheran, Orwigsburg, will be taking care of JERUSALEM'S pastoral needs during the initial part of our ministerial transition beginning January 1. For emergencies, please call his cell at 717-649-3532.

TODAY IS THE FESTIVAL OF THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD! It is an appropriate time for us to also remember our baptisms, so we are having our own "WHITE OUT" (Shout out to PSU Football Fans!). *Wearing something white*, in remembrance of your baptism. White, like infant baptismal gowns, or adults albs, is the symbol for God's gracious forgiveness (see Revelation 7:13).

IN RESPONSE TO THE TRAGIC AND DEADLY TORNADOES, WILDFIRES AND SNOW STORMS that have struck the Midwest, we are gathering a **SPECIAL OFFERING FOR LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE**. You can give either by designating on your regular offering envelope, or by putting your gift in the **SPECIAL** offering envelopes in the back next to the offering plates. Lutheran Disaster Response provides immediate relief, and long-term care and volunteers in the wake of disasters.

JERUSALEM MEMBER DIRECTORY FOR 2022. During the past year have you moved? Changed phone numbers? Changed email addresses? Please notify the church administrator of any changes before the Member Directories are printed! Please call the office 570-385-2657, email mail@jerusalemlutheran.com, or drop a note in the "Administrator Inbox" (located on the counter in the church office). Your help is appreciated!

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES FOR JANUARY are available to be picked up at the sign-up center in the lobby. You can also download a copy from our website at www.Jerusalemlutheran.com, click on the members tab. If you are interested in becoming more active in worship and would like to volunteer contact the church office.

AS OF DECEMBER 31ST, 2021, the Capital Campaign offerings were \$317,234.03. Thank you for your continued support!

A NOTE OF THANKS: I would like to thank all of the members of Jerusalem who showed their love, support, and caring for me. It is nice to know that you, my caring church family, is with me during this trying time. With your prayers and faith in our Lord. I hope to become victorious. ~ Rob Baessler

DEAR PEOPLE OF JERUSALEM, Thank you for the wonderful print for our house citing Joshua 24. It will serve as a beautiful reminder of our friends at Jerusalem. Even greater thanks for your support, prayers, and love during our time with you. We will continue to pray for Jerusalem during the transition, and the new pastorate. Peace, Pastor David and Mary Rowe

THE NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD extends a big THANK YOU for our congregation commitment of \$14,000 for 2022 for mission support. It is important to remember how Jerusalem continues to support the mission of the “wider church” through our offerings. In 2021, Jerusalem gave over \$12,000 to support the ministry of our synod. Together we make good things happen.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS FOR GOD’S BARNYARD/ELCA GOOD GIFTS. Your total donations for Jerusalem’s God’s Barnyard Sale came to \$4,250. This amount was matched dollar for dollar by the ELCA for a grand total of \$8,500 for this necessary ministry for our neighbors around the world. We purchased 2 months of food for a refugee family, 20 vaccinations for children, 2 portions of irrigation projects, 16 hygiene kits, a month of nutrition for 16 children, 20 chicks, 4 family farms, 6 herds of goats, 20 honeybee hives, 20 piglets, 2 honeybee hives with a community vegetable garden, and 2 shares of a fish farm. Together we are making the world a better place!

WEATHER CANCELLATION OF SERVICES! If there is no electricity during the winter, services will automatically be cancelled. *With snow and ice, please use your best judgment about your travel, because conditions do vary by neighborhood.* If services are cancelled they will be announced by 6:30 am on:

- **The church answering machine message.** Call the church office at 570-385-2657.
- **Facebook and the church web page** will announce Sunday closings if the administrator can get internet access from home.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

TODAY	8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Worship & Music Committee Meeting 10:30am Worship
TUESDAY	11:00am Coronavirus Task Force Meeting 6:30pm Executive Committee Meeting 7:00pm Church Council Committee Meeting
WEDNESDAY	6:15pm Bell Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal
THURSDAY	1:00pm Blood Drive

STAFF AND LEADERS

Pastor Mike Petresky

(717) 649-3532 (C)

Audrey Christ, *Music Director*

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linknomad@hotmail.com



WE INVITE YOU TO PRAY...

Many people love to sit and watch sports events and be entertained. It is exciting at times and can bring feelings of elation. What can seem to surpass that is if YOU are the one playing with your team: holding, kicking or batting the ball or finishing a marathon, for instance! The end result is exciting when winning, but it really is the whole event that combines to make the experience for us!

Whether you think of it this way or not, you are part of something much larger as a community of faith; the Body of Christ. And while some people think of coming to worship as a spectator sport, it is not! You are a participant in one of the most engaging 'activities' and exciting relationships there is with Jesus the Christ, each other, and indeed the world! And it is not just during the 'event' but every moment of our lives!

With this in mind, I'd like to invite you to take your bulletins home with you and make time to pray the intercessory prayers we prayed together at least once a day!

We all have stories of the power of prayer, not just getting the answers we want, but of how the presence of God walked with us through challenging or easier times guiding us!

Worshiping as a congregation, even when separated from each other by health issues or COVID or daily life- together with Christ we are co-creators of our lives, our families, our congregation and our world! Prayer is powerful on so many levels!

We invite you to join in prayer daily and deepen your relationship with God, each other and the world to experience true joy and grace!