

The Light of Joy
 Dr. Tim Bruster
 Isaiah 9:2-7

Traditional Worship
 11:00 am
 December 17, 2017

Prelude — Prepare the Way
 James Mansfield, arranger

Word of the Day:
 Joy

Welcome

Choral Call to Worship — Small Dancing Light
 Taylor Davis, composer

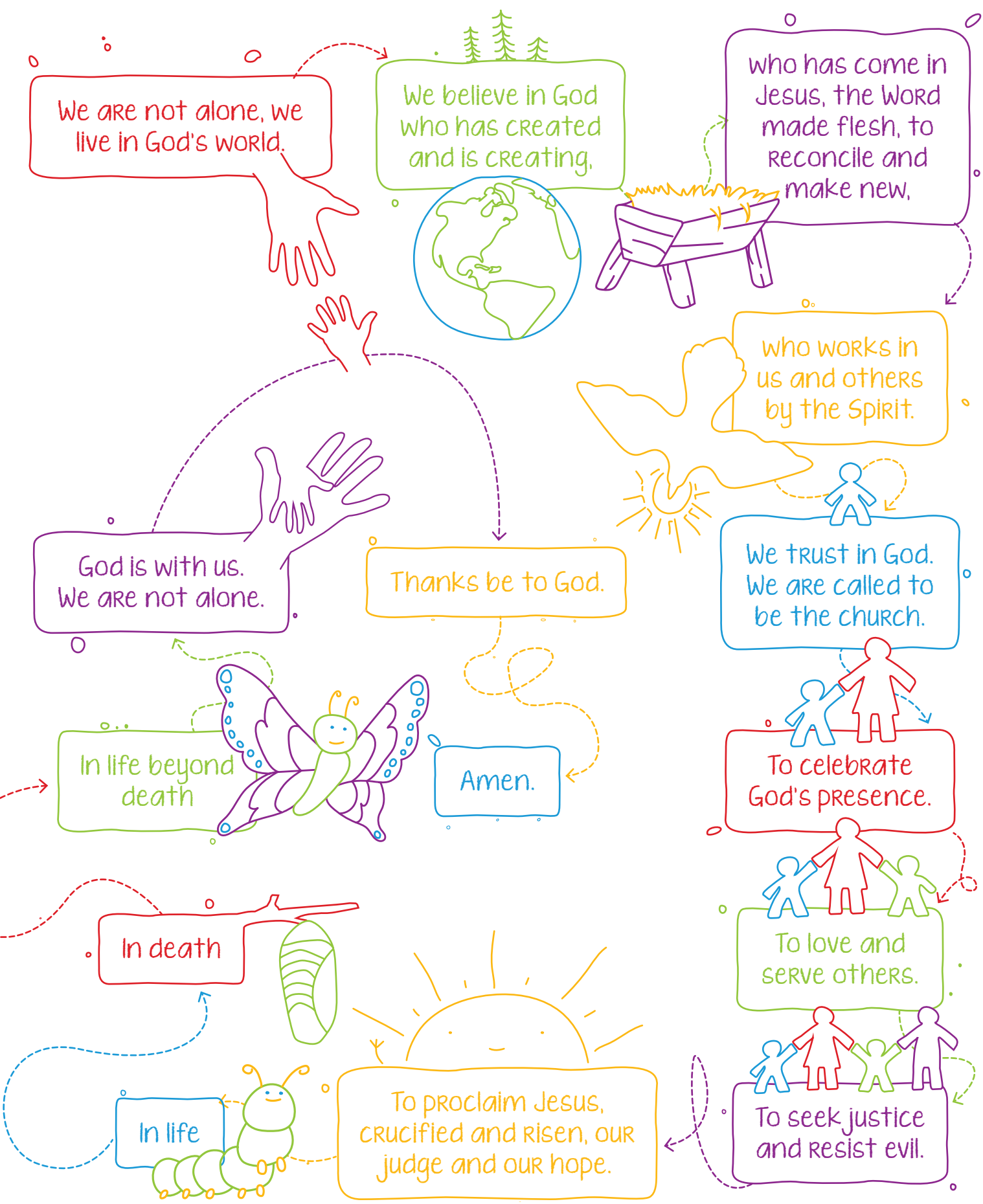
See, light dances; see, light dances on a thin, vast horizon.
 See, warmth shimmers; see, warmth shimmers on the cold,
 cold edge of night.
 All earth awakes in strange anticipation:
 darkness dispersed by a small, dancing light.
 Light is dancing hope, peace, and love.
 Warmth is spreading peace, love, and joy.
 Light is dancing hope, peace and love.
 Light is dancing peace, love and joy.
 Is there a word for this? There must be a word for this!
 Yes, there's a word for this: the word is "dawn!"

Memory Verse:
 The people
 who walked in
 darkness have
 seen a great
 light.
 —Isaiah 9:2

Lighting of the Advent Candle

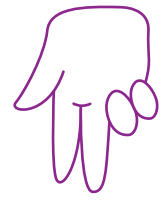


*Affirmation of Faith



*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;



As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Please be seated. Ushers will assist in seating at this time.

Gloria Patri means "Glory to the Father." This short hymn of praise has been sung by Christians for many centuries.

LESSON 1 – HOPE

Scripture reading – Isaiah 40:1-11

Special Music – Red Leaves Fall

Red leaves fall; can it be said the tree that loses leaves is dead? The evergreen in that same scene says "No, no not at all." A redbird lands where leaves once grew to ask, "Is this tree dead?" Then falling snow says, "No, no, no, in time all will be new." Is there a word for this when red leaves fall and redbirds call? Yes, there's a simple word for this; the word is "hope."

Scripture: Each week we read from the Bible – the book of God's love. Its words can inspire you, comfort you, teach you, and challenge you to be your best self – a true servant of God.

You can listen as the scripture is read, or... Find a Bible nearby, look up the scripture, and follow along.

*Carol 230 – O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light; The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above, While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth, And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!

How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is giv'n; So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His Heav'n. No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

LESSON 2 – PEACE

Scripture – Isaiah 2:2-5; 11:1-2, 6-9

Faith Like a Child

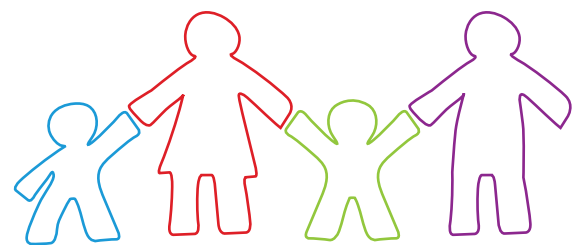
*Passing the Peace

Special Music – One Silent Melody

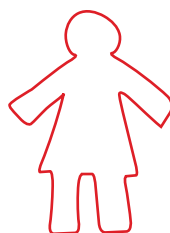
One straight path through teeming throngs,
one silent melody amid loud songs,
One small good surrounded by wrongs; in this a child shall lead us.
One sure truth to measure claims,
one deep identity though many names,
One clear call 'midst meaningless games; in this a child shall lead us.
Is there a word for this? There must be a word for this.
Yes, there's a word for this. The word is "peace."

*Carol 240 – Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

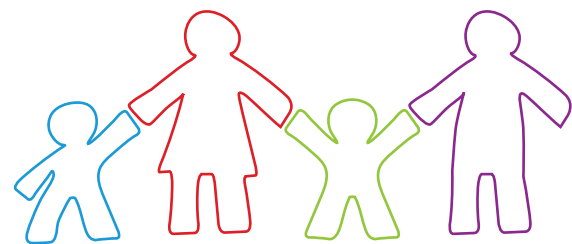
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th' angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"



Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th' incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"



Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

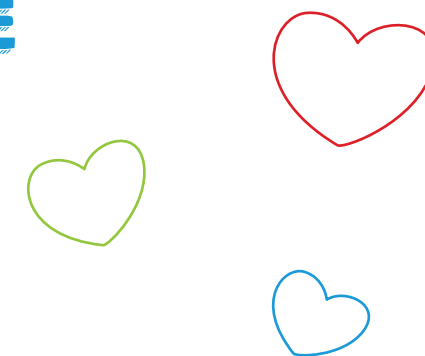


LESSON 3 – LOVE

A Time of Giving

Offertory – Someday

Someday fear will leave us. Someday strangers will be welcomed.
Someday differences will be a thing of beauty.
Someday we will open hearts and hands to counter hate.
Someday.
Someday greed will leave us. Someday poverty will call us.
Someday people's pain will touch our hearts and hurt us.
Someday we will all know suffering to be our own.
Someday.
Someday pride will leave us. Someday we'll embrace the world.
Someday we will live on earth, God's heavenly kingdom.
Someday we'll allow the coming child to shape our hearts.
Someday.
Is there a word for this? Give us a word for this!
And a word moves toward our prayer: the word is "love."

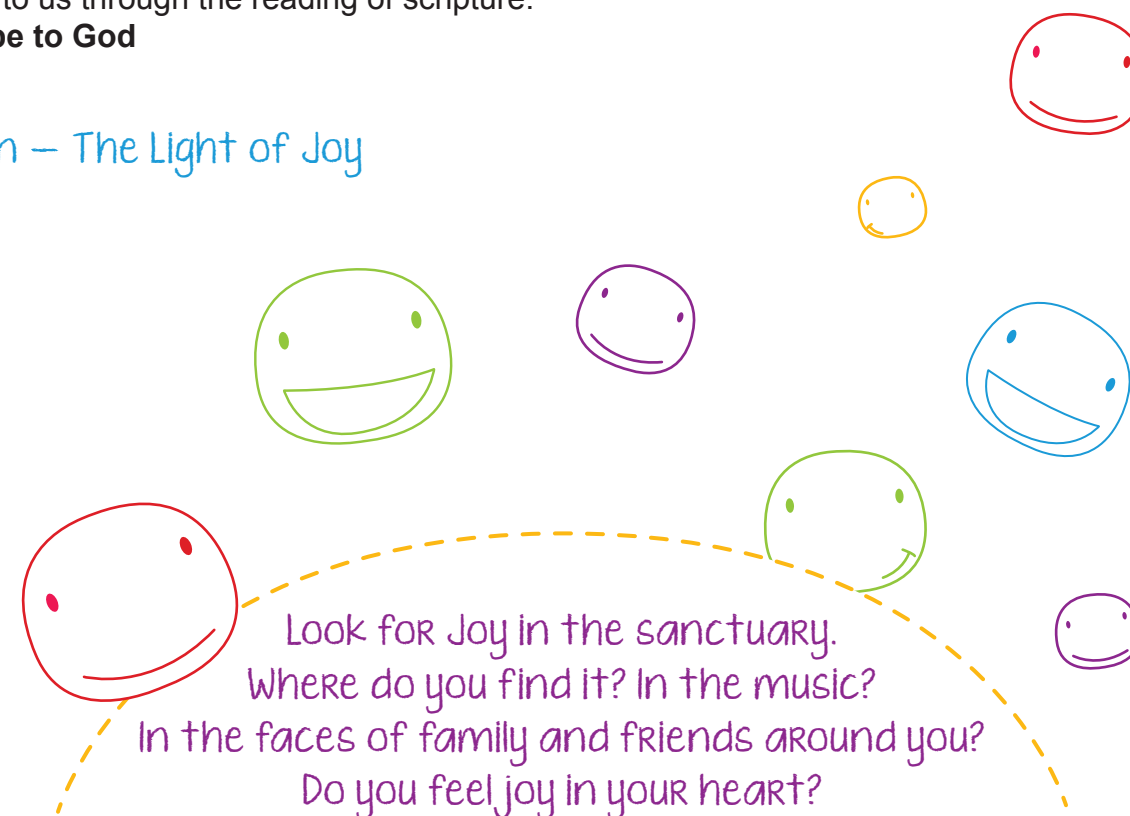


LESSON 4 – JOY

Scripture Reading – Isaiah 9:2-7

God speaks to us through the reading of scripture.
Thanks be to God

Meditation – The Light of Joy



Look for Joy in the sanctuary.
Where do you find it? In the music?
In the faces of family and friends around you?
Do you feel joy in your heart?

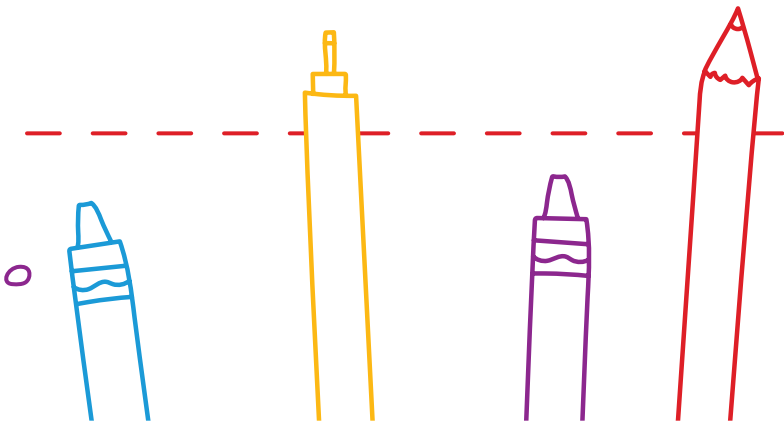
Sermon Snips:
You don't have to "just sit there." Choose one of the sermon snips and let it guide you as you take your relationship with God to the next level.



The Light of Joy

What about the sermon surprised you?

Be mindful.
What is something deep inside you that God wants the world to know?



Special Music – A Rising Fountain

We sense a fountain, a rising fountain, welling up in our hearts.
We sense a stirring, a stubborn stirring,
A sense that God will come among us,
God will live within us,
God will be there with us in the struggles of this life.
Is there a word for this, this strange new knowing,
this welling up inside?
Yes, there's a word for this! The word is "joy!"

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

*Carol 246 – Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing.



2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy.



3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found.



4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love.



*Benediction

Our gathering will soon be ended, where will we go, and what will we do?
We will go out to be God's people in the world.
May grace, peace, hope, love, and joy forever accompany you. Amen.

*Postlude – Joy to the World

David Cherwien, arranger

The poinsettias in the Sanctuary are given in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Broderick and Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Smith.

Worship Leaders:

Dr. Tim Bruster, Senior Pastor
Mr. Robert Stovall, Director of Music & Worship Arts
Mrs. Peggy Graff, Organist/Associate Director of Music & Worship Arts

Liturgists: Dr. Mike Marshall, Rev. Casey Orr

Faith Like a Child: Mister Mark, Landon Peugh, helper

Choir: Adoramus Chamber Choir

Instrumentalists: Violins-Brandie Phillips and Shannon Bohall, Viola-Dan Sigale, Cello-Craig Leffer, Bass-Kirby Nunez, Flute-Pam Adams, Oboe-Jane Owens, Clarinet-Danny Goldman, Bassoon-Jorge Cruz, Harp-Barbara Biggers, Piano-Sally Harrel

Acolytes: Nick Lindstrom, Grady Frazier, and Pearson Payne

Procession: Ida Cate Parsons, Hattie Beth Parsons, Alex Parsons, Addison Kerr, Carter Kerr, Cooper Kerr

**Please stand as you are able.*

WORSHIP KIT

↪ INSIDE YOU WILL FIND ↪

TREASURES OF NATURE BOX

One of the best ways we can experience God's power and love is by cherishing God's handiwork in the wonders of nature. Carefully open the box and discover what treasures wait inside.

BLANK CARD

You can use the pencil and crayons to make a *Thank You* note for someone in the Sanctuary who helped make worship feel special to you. It could be a parent, a minister, a choir member, an usher, or someone in the next pew who gave you a friendly wave. After the service, ask your parents to take you to hand-deliver the card.

ANOINTING BALM

Use the anointing balm to bless a friend or family member sitting next to you. Rub a tiny bit of the balm on your thumb and trace the sign of the cross on your neighbor's forehead or back of the hand (whichever they prefer). As you do this, say a simple blessing, such as "God bless you." (It's not just for sneezes.) Or, for a longer blessing, you could say:

*You are a special person.
God loves you, and so do I.
Bless you.*

And don't forget to allow your neighbor the privilege of getting to bless you.

PIPE STEMS

There are so many things you can do with pipe stems. You could:

- Listen to the sermon and sculpt an object you hear mentioned.
- Shape them in the initials of someone you'd like to pray for.
- Look around the Sanctuary and sculpt something you see.
- Sculpt a flower and give it to a family member.
- Make a friendship bracelet and give it to a friend, or to a new member.

PRAYER CROSS

The cross is such a powerful symbol of God's love and hope. Anytime is a good time to hold on to the cross. See inside the bulletin for how to use the prayer cross during the Lord's Prayer.

TANGLE

Listen to a piece of music or a Bible story and mold the tangle to show how it makes you feel.

Does it make you feel:

- Open and ready for God's presence?
- Tangled and confused?
- Wrapped snugly and securely?
- Calm like a gentle stream?
- Not sure?

PENCIL AND CRAYONS

Use these to write notes in your bulletin, draw a prayer, illustrate a story you hear in the sermon, or even ask hard questions.

CLOTH FIGURE

Here are just a few things you can do with the cloth figure:

- Have it act out the events in the Bible story.
- Help it read the bulletin.
- Gently hold it the way God is holding you right now.

EYE SPY CARD AND TELESCOPE

Use the Eye Spy card to identify some of the many meaningful objects and symbols in our Sanctuary. Use the telescope to help you explore.

