



"This Is Us: We Grow in Our Faith"

DR. TIM BRUSTER

Acts 2:42-47

Value: Discipleship

11:00 am

MARCH 17, 2019

## WE GATHER

Welcome

DR. TIM BRUSTER

Prelude — O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES

Brent Olstad, arranger

Announcements

Carol Roberts

Choral Call to Worship

\*Call to Worship

Leader: As people of faith, we seek to grow in the knowledge and the love of God.

**All: We devote ourselves to growing in our faith.**

We seek to continue growing through prayer and study.

**We devote ourselves to growing in our faith.**

We seek to continue growing in community with other believers.

**We devote ourselves to growing in our faith.**

We seek to grow in our ability to follow the ways of Jesus in our daily lives.

**We devote ourselves to growing in our faith.**

May God inspire in us open hearts, open minds, and open spirits.

**That we might grow in our discipleship in order to go out to be God's people in the world. Amen**

\*Hymn 660 — God is Here ←

God is here as we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,  
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts  
Wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;  
Here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,

Here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.  
Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;  
Here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us, as of old.  
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore

What it means in daily living to believe and to adore.  
Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt  
Keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive;  
We, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

Word of the Day:  
GROW

Memory Verse:  
The believers  
devoted  
themselves.

— Acts 2:42

The table is where the bread and cup are placed for communion. The font is where we keep the water for baptisms. The pulpit is where our pastors stand to preach the Good News. Find each of these in our worship space. And see how many crosses you can count.

# \* Affirmation of Faith

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,



who works in us and others by the Spirit.



God is with us. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

We trust in God. We are called to be the church.

In life beyond death

Amen.

To celebrate God's presence.

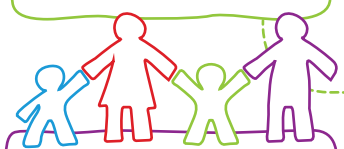
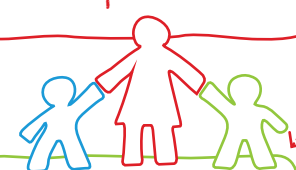
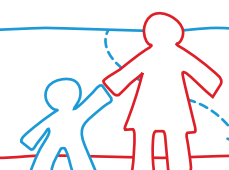
In death

To love and serve others.

In life

To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

To seek justice and resist evil.



## \*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.

## WE PROCLAIM

### Sacrament of Baptism

Armon Thomas Rucker, son of Sarah and William Rucker

### Baptismal Hymn 191 (vs. 1) – Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me! This I know,  
for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to him belong;  
they are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

### Congregational Response

With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that **Armon Thomas**, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

### Scripture – Acts 2:42-47

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

### Faith Like a Child

### \*Passing the Peace

### \*Hymn – They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

Chorus: And they'll know we are Christians by our love,  
by our love; yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,  
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,  
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:

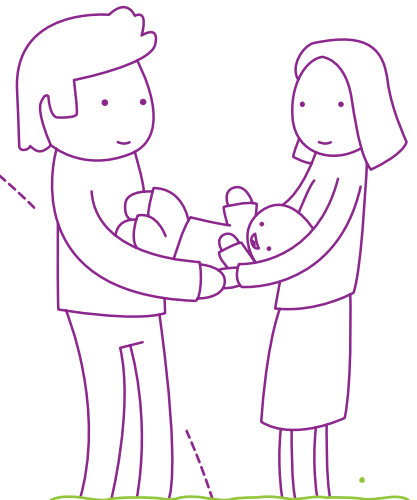
Chorus

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,  
we will work with each other, we will work side by side,  
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride:

Chorus

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come, and all  
praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,  
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:

Chorus



Baptism: When someone is baptized, it's a chance for all of us to celebrate how much God loves that person. God loves each one of us, not because of anything we do, but simply because we are God's children.

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.



If the sermon is about a Bible hero, think of the person in your life who is most like that hero. Write about that person, or make an illustration.



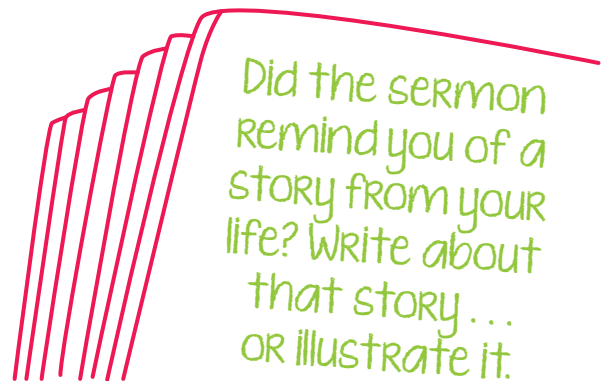
Listen. What is something you hear that gives you a sense of wonder? Of peace? Of hope?



This Is Us:  
We Grow in Our Faith



MOST SERMONS  
CONTAIN A SERIES OF  
STORIES. NUMBER EACH  
STORY AND DRAW AN  
EMOJI FOR HOW THAT  
STORY MADE YOU FEEL.



# WE RESPOND

Pastoral Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name.

The Lord's Prayer

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.  
Amen.

Many years  
after Jesus went  
to heaven, the  
early church  
added this part  
of the prayer.  
Hold the prayer  
cross close to  
your heart as  
you say this part.

A Time of Giving

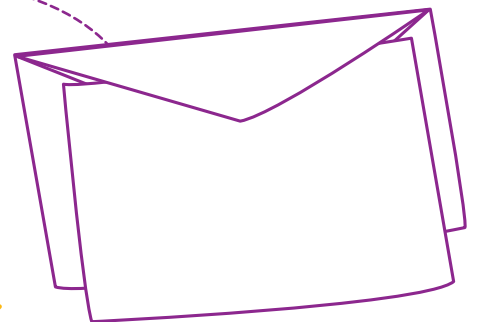
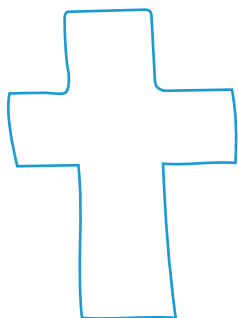
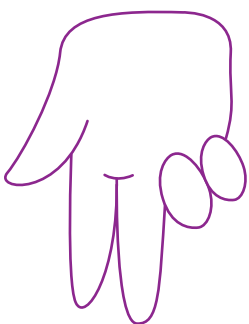
Offertory — Great is Thy Faithfulness

Ovid Young, arranger

Find the offering envelope in your worship kit. Write your first and last name on the envelope, then put in the money you plan to give to the church. Place the **envelope** in the offering plate. Every dollar makes a difference!

\*Doxology 95

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





## \* Invitation to Christian Discipleship

### \* Hymn 438 – Forth In Thy Name, O Lord

Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go, my daily labor to pursue; thee, only thee, resolved to know in all I think or speak or do.

The task thy wisdom hath assigned, O let me cheerfully fulfill; in all my works thy presence find, and prove thy good and perfect will.

Thee may I set at my right hand, whose eyes mine in-most substance see, and labor on at thy command, and offer all my works to thee.

For thee delightfully employ what e'er thy bounteous grace hath given; and run my course with even joy, and closely walk with thee to heaven.

### \* 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.

How are you going to be one of God's people in the world this week?

### \* Choral Benediction

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.  
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God our Creator, children all are we.  
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now,  
With every breath I take let this be my solemn vow:  
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

### \* Postlude – Joy Song

Mark Hayes, composer

**The flowers in the Sanctuary** are given in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs Thomas L. Uhr, Mrs. Sheila Uhr, Mr. Jack Morris, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Morris, and Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Hutchison by Mr. Bill Uhr and family.

**The white carnations** are in sympathy for the families and friends of Monica DeLaTorre and Virginia Covaleski.

#### Worship Leaders:

**Sermon:** Dr. Tim Bruster, Senior Pastor

**Liturgists:** Rev. Carol Roberts, Rev. Zhenya Gurina-Rodriguez, Ms. Jeanne Cochran

**Faith Like a Child:** Mister Mark

**Choir:** Choral Union

Mr. Robert Stovall, Director of Music and Worship Arts

Mrs. Peggy Graff, Organist/Associate Director of Music and Worship Arts

**Instrumentalist:** Ms. Pam Adams, flute

*\*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.

