

*⁶ When I was desperate, I called out,
and GOD got me out of a tight spot.*

*⁷ GOD's angel sets up a circle
of protection around us while we pray.*

*⁸ Open your mouth and taste, open your eyes and see—
how good GOD is.*

Blessed are you who run to him.

✠Call to Worship

We sing our praises and thanksgiving to you, most holy God,
as we joyfully worship you in gladness and song –

our response to your gracious activity in our lives.

You gather us together through the power and wisdom of your Holy Spirit,
*and transform us into a community graced
and held together by Divine Love.*

Help us to make the most of our time here today as we seek to glorify you.
*May you continue to be glorified in and through all we did in the past,
we do today, and in all the days to come.*

✠Opening Hymn #553

“And Are We Yet Alive” [V.V. 1-3]

DENNIS

Prayers of the People [Joys and concerns are lifted before God and the congregation.]

✠Hymn of Praise #553

“And Are We Yet Alive” [V.V. 4-6]

DENNIS

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination

✠Epistle Reading

“Ephesians 4:25-5:2” [The Message (MSG)]

Larry Tripp

²⁵ What this adds up to, then, is this: no more lies, no more pretense. Tell your neighbor the truth. In Christ's body we're all connected to each other, after all. When you lie to others, you end up lying to yourself.

²⁶⁻²⁷ Go ahead and be angry. You do well to be angry—but don't use your anger as fuel for revenge. And don't stay angry. Don't go to bed angry. Don't give the Devil that kind of foothold in your life.

²⁸ Did you use to make ends meet by stealing? Well, no more! Get an honest job so that you can help others who can't work.

²⁹ Watch the way you talk. Let nothing foul or dirty come out of your mouth. Say only what helps, each word a gift.

³⁰ Don't grieve God. Don't break his heart. His Holy Spirit, moving and breathing in you, is the most intimate part of your life, making you fit for himself. Don't take such a gift for granted.

³¹⁻³² Make a clean break with all cutting, backbiting, profane talk. Be gentle with one another, sensitive. Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you.

Wake Up from Your Sleep

^{5 1-2} Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Pastor Alex

Congregation Sings “Jesus Loves Me” as children return to their pews.

Reflecting on God's Message

Pastor Alex

✠Hymn of Response #560

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

ACCEPTANCE

Invitation to Offering

Let us give...

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

✠Doxology [IN UNISON]

“Praise God...”

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.

Offering Prayer

GOING FORTH

✠Closing Hymn #547

“O Church of God, United”

ELLACOMBE

Commission, Benediction, and Passing the Peace

We go as emissaries of God's love and power,

To reconcile the divided, restore the fragmented,

and to embrace the rejected in God's Name.

Postlude