

NURTURE

caring for one another, for our space, and for our growth as disciples

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Mary Marshall, Abby, Mitchell, loved ones of Aunt Lou, Colleen Bouldin, Jim Rickards, Jerry Porter, Grayson Foy, Richard Weeks, Wayne, and Ben Hamrick. Wish to add or restore a name? Say so via the offering plate or the church's e-mail address.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH is up and running! Ms. LaRonda is among us. She's a favorite among students over at Grace Covenant's preschool. After children's moment (approximately 4:15) guardians are invited to accompany infants - 5 year olds to the end of the hallway. They rejoin us for Communion.

A LOOK AT LIFE TOGETHER in numbers.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
December 1 - 20	\$9,752	\$10,205

IF YOU MISSED CHRISTMAS EVE at Boulevard, you can still contribute to the Christmas Eve offering. This collection will make possible an end of year gift to each person on the congregation's payroll.



OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

PLANNING for 2018 outreach initiatives is in order. A time and place for this important work is forthcoming.

Boulevard United Methodist Church



There have been many amazing instances of faithfulness heretofore in Luke—Mary, Zechariah, the shepherds. But to my mind, Simeon's faithfulness takes the cake. The other three had visits from angels. Without so much as a nod from a passing seraph, Simeon looks at this tiny scrap of baby and sees the salvation of the world.

Lauren F. Winner

December 31, 2017

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PO Box 14507 Richmond, VA 23221
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1st Sunday after Christmas

4:00 pm

Gathering

Greeting

Call to Prayer and Praise

Gracious God, where shepherds knelt and strangers sojourned,

Take us.

We may travel in half-belief. Still,

Save us a place in your plans.

If we are reluctant or distracted, lead us anyway

Into your presence and along your holy way.

Hymn *Jesus the Light of the World*

Joys and Concerns

Prayer

The Peace

Time with Children

Music Crystal Bayles Lennon

Scripture Luke 2:22-40

Music *Song of Simeon*

Sermon Rev. Dr. James "Jim" Somerville

Response Psalm 148

Hymn *I Cannot Tell* vv. 1-2

Offering Tithes & Gifts

The Lord's Supper

Hymn *I Cannot Tell* vv. 3-4

Dismissal with Blessing

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God...

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory,

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus...

And so,

in remembrance of these, your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,

we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving

as a holy and living sacrifice,

in union with Christ's offering for us,

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Pour out your Spirit on us, and pour out your Spirit on these gifts...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER

SONG OF SIMEON

Tune: Land of Rest || Words: James J. Quinn

Lord, bid your servant go in peace;
your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn,
this child so long foretold.

This is the Savior of the world,
the Gentiles' promised light,
God's glory dwelling in our midst,
the joy of Israel.

Luke 2:22-40

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” ³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord!

**Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise God in the heights!**

Praise God, all the angels;

praise God, all the host!

Praise God, sun and moon;

praise God, all you shining stars!

Praise God, you highest heavens,

and you waters above the heavens!

**Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for God commanded and they were created.**

Mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle,

creeping things and flying birds!

Monarchs of the earth and all peoples,

Sovereigns and all leaders of the earth,

Young men and women alike,

old and young together!

**Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for God’s name alone is exalted;**

God’s glory is above earth and heaven.

God has raised up a horn for the people,

praise for all the faithful,

for the people of Israel who are close to God,

Praise the Lord!

—adapted, New Revised Standard Version

I CANNOT TELL

Words: William Y. Fullerton

Tune: Londonderry Air

1. I cannot tell why he whom angels worship
should come in flesh as prophets long foretold,
or why the Shepherd longs to save the wanderers
and bring them back rejoicing to the fold.
But this I know, that he was born of Mary
when Bethlehem's manger was his only home,
and that he lived at Nazareth and labored,
and so the promised Savior of the world is come.

2. I cannot tell how silently he suffered
as with his peace he graced this place of tears,
or how his heart upon the cross was broken,
the crown of pain to three and thirty years.
But this I know, he heals the broken-hearted,
and stays our sin and calms our lurking fear,
and lifts the burden from the heavy-laden,
for still the suffering Savior of the world is here.

3. I cannot tell how he will win the nations,
how he will claim his earthly heritage,
how satisfy the needs and aspirations
of east and west, of sinner and of sage.
But this I know, all flesh shall see his glory,
and he shall reap the harvest he has sown,
and some glad day his sun shall shine in splendor,
when he, the risen Savior of the world, is known.

4. I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship
when at his bidding every storm is stilled,
or who can say how great the jubilation
when all our hearts with love for him are filled.
But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,
and countless voices then will join to sing,
and earth to heaven, and heaven to earth will answer:
"At last the living Savior of the world is King!"

Jesus, the Light of the World

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je - sus, the Light of the world.
2. Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, Je - sus the Light of the world.
3. Christ by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je - sus the Light of the world.
4. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace, Je - sus the Light of the world.

Glo - ry to the new - born King, Je - sus the light of the world.
Join the tri - umphs of the skies, Je - sus the light of the world.
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord, Je - sus the light of the world.
Hail the Sun of right - eous - ness, Je - sus the light of the world.

We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light. Come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.

Shine all a-round us by day and by night. Je - sus, the light of the world.

WORDS: George D. Elderkin, 1890; verses by Charles Wesley, 1739
MUSIC: George D. Elderkin, 1890

WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT
7 7 7 7 with refrain

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