

**Sunday April 19, 2026**

*Brief Communion*

**Welcome** *Pastor Jeff will give announcements and welcome*

**\*\*Call to Worship** (*Liturgist parts are indicated in BOLD and \*\**)

**\*\*Good Morning, I am Chris Ritter, and will be serving as Worship Leader today. Would you please stand in body or spirit to join me in the responsive Call to Worship?**

**\*\*Leader: God has searched us and knows us. God knows when we sit down and when we rise up.**

People: God searches out our path and our lying down. God is acquainted with all our ways.

**\*\*Leader: Before a word is on our tongues, God knows it. God's hand is ever available to guide us.**

People: Such knowledge is a wonder to us. It is beyond anything we can attain.

**\*\*Leader: We cannot escape from God's spirit. There is nowhere to flee from God's presence.**

People: Darkness is as light to our God. God illuminates the way before us.

**\*\*Will you join us in our opening song, "How Can We Name a Love", hymn #111 in the hymnal, the words will be on the screen.**

**Children's Time**

**Community Notes**

Prayers, the Lord's Prayer and Offering of Gifts

*(Pastor Jeff will first do the prayers, Liturgist will read Invitation & pray)*

**\*\*Invitation: We are debtors to God, who has given us the precious gift of life. We were created of good seed in God's own image that we might bear fruit for God's realm. We have the capacity to dream and envision a better world, free of the sin that so often seems to choke out the good. Through our offerings we give support to our common mission.**

**\*\*Will you pray with me? Thank you, God, for the rich heritage of faith we have received from our ancestors. We are grateful that your Spirit is ever with us, assuring us of your acceptance and love. May our offerings share this good news with other children of God who have not yet discovered their identity. May all of us grow in righteousness that we might together experience the reality of your realm in our daily lives, here and now and for all eternity. Amen.**

**\*\*Scripture Reading      Psalm 139:1-6    NRSV**

**O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

**\*\*Scripture Reading      John 15:1-5    NRSV**

**As this is a reading of the Gospel, please stand in body or spirit.**

**"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by**

**the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.**

**This is the word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!**

**Message**        *“Connect in the Good Life”* Pastor Jeff Williams

**Communion**

**Invitation**

**Pastor: Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him and seek to grow into his likeness. Let us draw near with faith, make our humble confession, and prepare to receive this Holy Sacrament.**

**Confession & Pardon**

**ALL: We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own goodness, but in your unfailing mercies. We all look to you for food in due season. You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. You are near to all who call on you in truth. You fulfill the desire of those who know your awesome power. Hear our cry and save us.**

**Pastor: Hear the good news: Christ has died for us while we were yet sinners: that is proof of God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**ALL: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**-----Pastor reads The Great Thanksgiving...**

**(The congregation will come forward to receive communion)**

**Communion Song**        *“Shout to the Lord” - Praise Team*

**Closing Song**    *“I Need Thee Every Hour”*    Hymn #397

**Blessing for the Week**

**Choral Benediction**

Taught by Love, pages 124 and 125

