

The United Methodist Church at Absecon

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Snowball Mountain Challenge

July 26, 2026

Today's Lay Reader: Lynn Caterson

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Come! Come from our sanctuary or from your home. Come at 11 AM on Sunday or any time during the week. Come whenever and wherever you are. Come! Worship is called in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

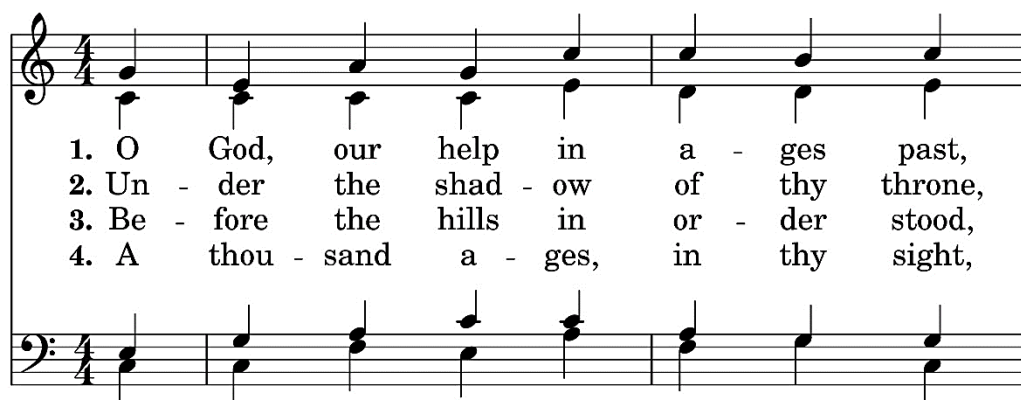
People: **We come, ready to worship the God of Joseph and Esther; a God who cares for widows, the lonely and those who are differently abled.**

Leader: These five themes are the themes of this year's Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS!

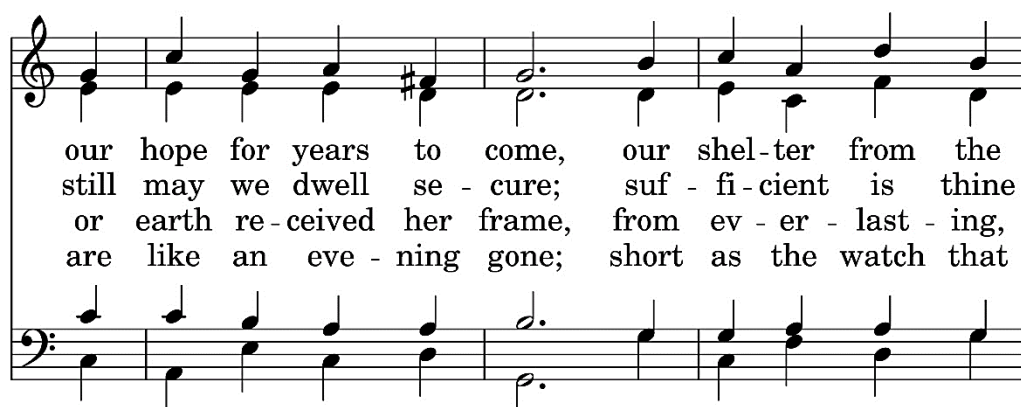
People: **All of this proclaims the weekly Bible verse that says "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me".**

Hymn

O God, Our Help in Ages Past



1. O God, our help in a - ges past,
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of thy throne,
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood,
 4. A thou - sand a - ges, in thy sight,



our hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the
 still may we dwell se - cure; suf - fi - cient is thine
 or earth re - ceived her frame, from ev - er - last - ing,
 are like an eve - ning gone; short as the watch that



storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home!
 arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 thou art God, to end - less years the same.
 ends the night, be - fore the ris - ing sun.

Opening Prayer

Dear God, thank you for the summer months when some things take a break, and other things take their place for a season. Thank you for all who are working on this year's VBS, and thank you for the five lessons we will learn together. Most of all, thank you for providing the things that we could never attain on our own. But through Christ, we can! Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Turn your eyes up - on Je - sus, look full in his
 won - der - ful face, and the things of earth will grow
 won - der - ful face,
 strange - ly dim in the light of his glo - ry and grace.

Special Music

It Is Well with My Soul
Kathy Fowler

arr. Tom Fettke

Scripture Lesson

Philippians 4:10-14

I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me but had no opportunity to show it. Not that I am referring to being in need, for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have

plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. In any case, it was kind of you to share my distress.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: **Thanks be to God**

Message *Snowball Mountain Challenge*

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

The Lord's My Shepherd

arr. Don Hustad

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



A Service of Word and Table

Please see the Communion Liturgy on [page 6](#) of this document.

Hymn

Spirit of God



1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
2. I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
3. Hast thou not bid me love thee, God and King?
4. Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh;
5. Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love,

wean it from earth; through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 All, all thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind.
 teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear.
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies;
 I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.
 To check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh,
 the kin - dling of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove,

and make me love thee as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 O let me seek thee, and O let me find!
 teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 my heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

Benediction

Postlude

Voluntary

William Selby

A Service of Word and Table

Invitation

Pastor: Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession and Pardon

People: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done Your will, we have broken Your law, we have rebelled against Your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

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

All: Thanks be to God!

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion, remembering God's mighty acts of salvation, and concludes: And so, with Your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The people sing their response:

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord; God of
power and might. Heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - - - - -
ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high -
est! Blest is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est!

WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal* (Isa. 6:3; Matt. 21:9)

MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

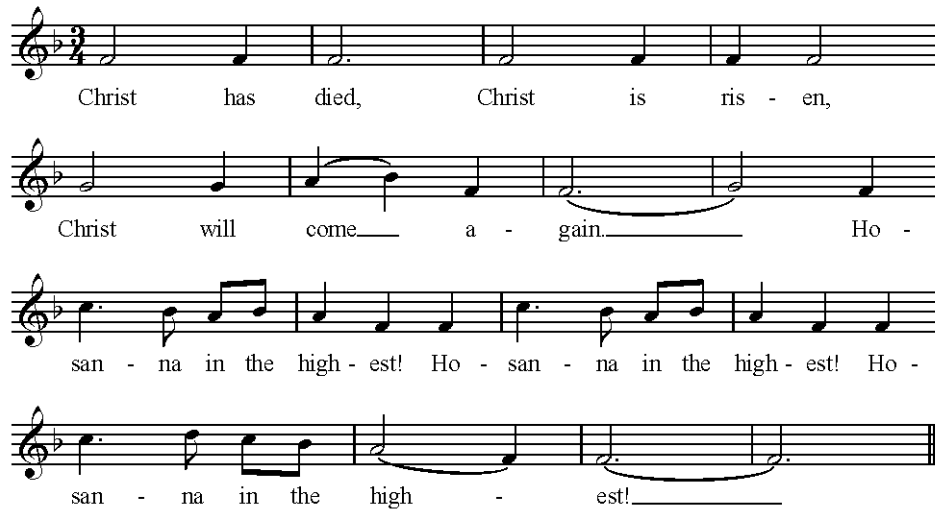
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Source: *The Faith We Sing*, no. 2257-b.

The pastor continues the Thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes: 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:

The people sing their response:

Memorial Acclamation



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en,
Christ will come a - gain. Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est!

WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal*
MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

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Source: *The Faith We Sing*, no. 2257-c.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding: All honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen!

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Cup