



February 6, 2022
9:55 AM

WORSHIP MUSIC

Standing in the Need of Prayer
Boundless Love
He Knows Just What I Need
Sweeter as the Days Go By

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:41-52
New Testament for Everyone

SPECIAL MUSIC

Children Will Listen
Bianca Bryan

MESSAGE

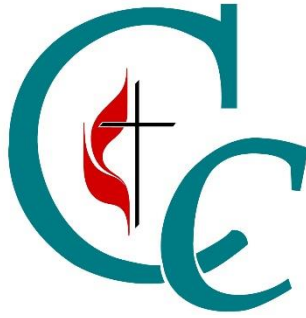
“You Let Us Take the Kid Home?”
Rev. Nathan Decker

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
February 13	<i>Love Leaves a Trace</i>	Psalm 91
February 20	<i>When the Kids Teach Us</i>	1 Samuel 3:1-18
February 27	<i>Grandma’s Bible</i>	1 John 3:1-3
March 6	<i>Micah’s Simple Rules</i>	Micah 6:1-8

STAFF DIRECTORY

Ministers..... All Members of the Congregation
Senior Pastor: Nathan Decker.....nathandecker@chesterumc.org
Associate Pastor: Chad Beck.....chadbeck@chesterumc.org
Minister of Music/Office Assistant: Joshua Wortham..... music@chesterumc.org
Office Manager: Terry Wisegarver..... cumcsecretary@chesterumc.org
Financial Specialist: Julie Jonesfinance@chesterumc.org
Nursery Specialist:Alistia Mabry
Middle & High School Youth Ministryyouthleaders@chesterumc.org



ONLINE GIVING

A Community in Christ

Chester United Methodist Church

Rooted in God, Growing in Christ, Bearing Fruit in the Spirit

12132 Percival Street, Chester, Virginia 23831 * Church: (804) 748-6006 Fax: (804) 748-0859

Web Site: www.chesterumc.org * *A Stephen Ministry Congregation*



FRESH START SERVICE

February 6, 2022—8:30 AM



Please sign the teal attendance pad and pass it to your neighbor.

WORSHIP MUSIC

Sing, Sing, Sing
Everlasting God
You Never Let Go
Blessed Be Your Name

SPECIAL MUSIC

Children Will Listen
Bianca Bryan

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:41-52
New Testament for Everyone

MESSAGE

“You Let Us Take the Kid Home?”
Rev. Nathan Decker

Please sign the red attendance pad, register for activities, and pass it to your neighbor.

Welcome, Announcements and Greeting

Chimes

Prelude

Children's Medley

Pianist

* Call to Worship¹

Leader: And Jesus said, "Come!"

People: To all mothers and all children: he said, "Come!"

Leader: to the motherless and the childless: he said, "Come!"

People: to all who long to be mothered: he said, "Come!"

Leader: Come unto me all ye who labor and are heavy-laden,

People: and I will give you rest.

Leader: Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart

People: and you will find rest for your souls."

* Opening Prayer²

O Spirit, rise up from the earth to be with us in this place; descend from the heavens to be with us in this time. We have gathered to worship you, for such is the beginning of wisdom. In worship, we begin to grasp that, compared with yours, the vast scope of our minds is confined; that the steady scale of our hearts is unsure; that the masterful skill of our hands is common.

O Spirit, like Hannah and Elkanah and Mary and Joseph, we must learn the wisdom of honoring that which lies beyond us, of keeping within our hearts that which we do not comprehend. Help us, as we ponder the power of your presence, the strength of your touch, and the mystery of your voice, to trust the prophets you raise up among your children and the savior you send unto your people. Amen.

* Opening Hymn No. 352

It's Me, It's Me, O Lord

Anthem

Order My Steps

Chancel Choir

Why We Give

Offertory

Children Will Listen

Bianca Bryan

- * Doxology No. 94
 - Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**
 - Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!**
 - Praise God, the source of all our gifts!**
 - Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!**
 - Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Pastoral Prayer & 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, forever. Amen

- * Hymn No. 349 *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*

- Scripture *Luke 2:41-52* *New Testament for Everyone*

- Sermon *You Let Us Take the Kid Home?* Rev. Nathan Decker

- Holy Communion *See insert.*

- * Hymn No. 618 *Let Us Break Bread Together*
- * Benediction
- * Choral Amen

**Please stand as you are able. Bold print indicates a response in unison.*

Hearing Assistance Devices, Large Print Hymnals, and Braille Hymn Sheets are available for use in the Sanctuary. Please ask an usher.

Worship Footnotes:

¹ <https://carolpenner.typepad.com/leadinginworship/2011/05/mothers-day-call-to-worship.html>

² <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/6540/worship-elements-december-26-2021>

CALENDAR
February 6-13, 2022

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 8:30 AM–2:00 PM
Preschool Hours: Mon-Thurs 8:30 AM-1:30 PM

Today: 8:30 AM Nursery until 12:15 PM
Fresh Start Service-DFH
9:30 AM Children’s Sun Sch-DFH
9:45 AM Adult Sunday School
Youth Sun Sch.-LOFT
CONNECTIONS-116
9:55 AM Bridge Service-Sanc
10:00 AM Online Worship
11:00 AM Traditions Service-Sanc
12:00 PM UMW Salad Lunch-DFH
3:00 PM Youth-Holiday Bowl
Key Club-DFH
4:00 PM Paint Party-DFH
6:30 PM Bridge Builders-226
Mon.: 6:00 PM Eagle Scout Cer.-Sanc/DFH
6:30 PM Cub Scouts-226+
7:00 PM Jean Craig F’ship.
Tues.: 10:30 AM Joy Singers-Music Suite
1:00 PM History Com-220
3:30 PM Rest Stop
Wed.: 10:00 AM Blood Drive-DFH
12:00 PM Bridge Builders-Online

Wed.: 7:00 PM **Trustees-Annex**
7:00 PM Chancel Choir-Music Suite
Thurs.: 7:30 AM Men’s Group-Grant’s Coffee
10:30 AM Bookman F’ship.-226
11:00 AM Contemplative Prayer-Parlor
1:30 PM Prayer Shawl- Parlor
6:30 PM Boy Scout Leaders
Fri.:
Sat.: 9:30 AM Cantata Workshop-Sanc

Next Sunday: February 13, 2022
8:30 AM Nursery until 12:15 PM
Fresh Start Service-DFH
9:30 AM Children’s Sun Sch-DFH
9:45 AM Adult Sunday School
Youth Sun Sch.-LOFT
9:55 AM Bridge Service-Sanc
10:00 AM Online Worship
11:00 AM Traditions Service-Sanc
12:00 PM Souper Bowl Lunch-DFH
4:00 PM Confirmation-DFH
6:30 PM Bridge Builders-226

Online Giving: Scan the QR code (on the front of the bulletin) with your smartphone to contribute online or visit www.chesterumc.org and click “Online Giving.”



Leading Our Worship TODAY, February 6, 2022

Greeters: 8:30 Ed & Marian Garrett
9:55 Stephanie Decker
11:00 Betty Labin, Will Schmidt, Mary Musselwhite
Ushers: 8:30 Gordon Jones*, Bruce Johnson, Ron Dombrowski * Indicates Head Usher
9:55 Gordon Morris*, Jim Watkins
11:00 Gordon Jones*, Tommy Petrey, Scott Pugh, Don Schmidt, Vann Stanfield
Nursery: 9:55, 11:00 Staff Member, Alistia Mabry, plus a church volunteer

*We are truly blessed if you are a guest who has chosen to worship with us today!
First-time guests are invited to pick up a blue Welcome Bag from the Atrium or
Narthex. Thank you for celebrating the Lord with us today!*

Valentine Cards: Please write a valentine and place it in the basket at the end of worship! These will be delivered to the teachers and staff at Marguerite Christian and Curtis Elementary Schools as a special blessing from our church family.

United Methodist Women Salad Luncheon meeting **TODAY** at noon. All women of the church are invited. Our program will be presented by Kim Southerland, Director of the Pregnancy Resource Center of Metro Richmond. **Bring a small cash donation or feminine products for young women in crisis AND a salad or dessert to share.**

Youth Bowling: TODAY from 3:00-5:00 PM at Holiday Bowl. Cost is \$8.00/per person. Please never ever let cost be a reason your youth does not attend a youth gathering. Please register here if you plan to attend: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f45a9ab2eabfb6-youth>

Christian Parenting Small Group: Have an offspring who is really off? Curious about faith and parenting? Pastor Nathan will be starting a Christian Parenting Small Group initially meeting on **Monday, February 7, at 7:00 PM.** Those in attendance will decide on future dates and times. This short-term small group will be completely focused on how our faith guides us to lead our Children to grow. Childcare will be provided as needed. *Please register in the pew pad if you plan to attend and note if you will need childcare.*

Girl Scout Cookies for Sale NEXT Sunday, morning, February 13, in the Atrium. Please consider supporting our in-house Troop #5248.

Super Bowl Sunday Soup Luncheon: Join us at noon on **February 13** for good food and fellowship. Proceeds will go to the United Methodist Women's pledge to mission. The whole congregation is invited! The menu includes several heartwarming soups, corn muffins, desserts, and beverages. The cost at the door is \$6 per person. *Our Children's Ministry will be collecting canned soup, canned fruit, and monetary donations for our Food Pantry at the luncheon.* Call Susan Petrey, 938-5396, for more information.

Stewardship Update: To date, we have received 141 Pledge Cards promising to give **\$649,252.00** to God's work through Chester UMC in 2022! *If you have not turned in your Pledge Card, please drop it in the offering plate or mail to the church.*

Guest Soloist Bianca Bryan is a local actor/singer/voiceover artist, who began her career studying opera at Manhattan School of Music, in New York City. After 16 years in NYC, she moved to Richmond with her husband to raise her two children. She has appeared in numerous theatrical productions in town with TheatreLAB, Quill Theater, Richmond Triangle Players, and Virginia Rep. On TV, she hosts *Real Virginia* Saturday mornings on FOX. You also can hear her daily as 'the voice' for Virginia Public Media (VPM) radio (88.9 & 107.3) and during the Flying Squirrels baseball season as their PA Announcer!

KEEP IN PRAYER: family of Marylou Cumby; family of Cathy Chase; family of Hazel Miller; Daniel Pierce (brother-in-law of Talina Beck); family of Philip Yerby, III; Heather Escobar; Debbie Freed; Janean Trimble; Doug and Clara Gestwick.

Our Presence January 30, 2022

Fresh Start	99
The Bridge.....	61
Traditions	125
Online/Call In	65
Total Worship Attendance.....	350

Nursery Volunteers Needed: Please volunteer to serve on a rotation schedule at 8:30 AM and 9:45 AM with our paid nursery professional, Alistia Mabry. Visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d44acae2da75-nursery> POC: Pastor Chad Beck

Children’s Sunday School meets at 9:30 AM in the fellowship hall. We will offer a time of games (until about 10:00 AM), a Bible lesson, music, and prayer for children in grades PK-5. All are welcome! Today, special guest Debi Graves (owner of Alma Bella Academy) will lead us in a craft! To volunteer, please contact Carrie Coyner (carrie.coyner@gmail.com).

Contemplative Prayer Group meets weekly on **Thursdays at 11:00 AM** in the Church Parlor. We read scripture and then practice using silence to focus, pray, and connect with God. Please join us. It is a small group, and we practice social distancing. If you have questions, contact Lisa Stanfield (lisajostanfield@gmail.com).

CHESTER UMC ONLINE RESOURCES

- **Website:** www.chesterumc.org.
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ChesterUnitedMethodistChurch/>.
- **Facebook Closed Group:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ChesterUMC/>.
- **Daily Email News:** Visit <http://eepurl.com/blV9Tv> to subscribe.
- **Daily Devotionals from Pastor Nathan:** <https://www.facebook.com/BetterTogether.Devos/>.
- **YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/c/ChesterUMC>.
- **Prayer Chain Email:** to subscribe or to submit a prayer request, email Terry at cumcsecretary@chesterumc.org with “Prayer Chain” or “Prayer Request” in the subject line.
- **CUMC Library Catalog:** <https://16538.rmwebopac.com> (password: CUMC). Search for titles, peruse our inventory, and much more. POC: Ron Dombrowski (rmachachi@aol.com).
- **The Chimes**, bi-monthly newsletter: Submit items to communication@chesterumc.org on 3rd Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

SUNDAY SMALL GROUPS

Fresh Start Sunday School Class

9:45 AM, Room 205

Continuing through February 27, *If God is Love, Don't Be A Jerk* by John Pavlovitz

Beginning March 6, *The Grace of Les Miserables* by Matt Rawle.

POC: Susan Petrey (susanmpetrey@gmail.com)

Journey Sunday School Class

9:45 AM, Annex and Google Meet (<https://meet.google.com/ptm-pieh-vve>)

January 23 – February 28: *Storm Shelter – God's Embrace in the Psalms* by Philip Nation.

March 7 – April 10: *Final Words from the Cross* by Adam Hamilton.

POCs: Carolyn Landis (landisfamily05@gmail.com);

Eric Houglund (ehouglund88@gmail.com)

Seekers Sunday School Class

9:45 AM, Room 226

The Message of the Holy Spirit by K Warrington

POC: Barbara MacIntyre (telluwhatbarbara@aim.com)

Senior Singles Sunday School Class

9:45 AM, Parlor

Faithful, by Adam Hamilton

POC: Cynthia Corley (cacorley@ctsi.net)

Bridge Builders

6:30 PM, Room 226

POCs:

Middle and High School Youth Sunday School

9:45 AM, Annex Loft

POC: Dale (fungoboy77@gmail.com) and Karen Clark (klsclark51@gmail.com)

Bridge Builders, WEDNESDAY Online Study Group: 12:00 PM, Google Meet. POC: Maureen Coker (mcoker2003@comcast.net)

THURSDAY Morning Men's Group: All men are invited to join us EVERY Thursday at 7:30 AM for prayer, study, and fellowship at **GRANT'S COFFEE Co.** (11884 Chester Village DR) First Watch has ceased in-person service due to COVID. POC: Vann Stanfield (vannstan34@gmail.com)

REST STOP Volunteers Needed! This program provides social, academic, faith, and food support for nine local high school students. The program is critical to the development of the participants and encourages their overall well-being by providing a weekly experience with positive impacts. To support, sustain, and provide access to this high-quality experience, we need to grow our team of volunteers. Team members are needed NOW to help with tutoring, mentoring, sharing life and career skills, providing meals, and driving the church van to pick up youth after school and take them home. Whether you can volunteer each week, once a month, or once a year your assistance is vital to keep this ministry going.

REST STOP meets every Tuesday from 3:00 pm - 5:30 PM at the Annex building. If you have any questions, or are ready to offer your assistance, please contact REST STOP Team Leader Bobby Henderson (804-241-2191 or reststop804@gmail.com).

Join the Fresh Start Sunday School Class in Study, Fellowship and Service:

- Continuing through Feb. 27, “If God is Love, Don’t be a Jerk” by John Pavlovitz. Thou Shalt Not be Horrible. Imagine if people of faith aspired to this mantra and daily challenged ourselves to live a faith that simply made us better humans.
- Beginning March 6, “**The Grace of Les Miserables**” by Matt Rawle. This Lent, ponder the themes of justice, poverty, freedom, and love. Victor Hugo’s *Les Misérables* is a truly epic story. Whether you’ve read the novel or seen the Broadway musical, you know the power in the story. In the six-week Lenten study, *The Grace of Les Misérables*, author and pastor Matt Rawle dives into six ideals found in the story—grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love, and hope—each represented by a character in Hugo’s story.

The Fresh Start Class meets every Sunday morning at 9:45 in room 205 (across the hall from the church library). Visitors and new members are always welcome. Call Susan Petrey, 938-5396, for more information.

Seekers Sunday School Class: You are cordially invited to join us in study and fellowship March 6-April 17 as we do a DVD Lenten study by Adam Hamilton, *24 Hours That Changed the World*. Our class meets every week from 9:45 to 10:45 AM in Room 226. Y’all come! POC: Barbara MacIntyre (telluwhatbarbara@aim.com)

Journey Sunday School Class plans to study, Final Words by Adam Hamilton for Lent. If you have a used copy of the study book to donate to the class, please drop it by the Church Office.

Red Cross Blood Drive at Chester UMC: Wednesday, **February 9**, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM in the fellowship hall. *ALL TIME SLOTS ARE FULL!*

Easter Cantata Choir rehearsals kick off on Saturday, February 12, at 9:30 AM. Weekly rehearsals are Wednesdays at 7:00 PM. Singers of all skill levels welcome! POC: Joshua Wortham (music@chesterumc.org)

Mission Trip: God's Spirit is moving. Last year wind and tornados damaged homes and communities in Kentucky. The breath of God is calling us at Chester UMC to help. Our Church is planning on sending volunteer team(s) in late Spring/Early Summer. Pray. Listen. Discern. If you are interested, please let us know so that we can begin the work of forming teams, dates, costs, etc. *Sign up in the Pew Pad* or by emailing cumcsecretary@chesterumc.org.

Bridge Builders invites everyone to join us online on Wednesdays or in-person on Sundays. We will have open, safe conversations based in Jesus's love and reconciliation. *"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation"* 2 Corinthians 5:18.

Wednesdays online at noon, February 9 and 16: What should Christians know about Critical Race Theory? POC: Maureen Coker (mcoker2003@comcast.net) For Feb. 9, You are encouraged to watch (but not required) the recommended video at <https://www.facebook.com/GCORRUMC/videos/220304656644603/?t=0>

Sundays in-person group at 6:30 PM in room 226, POCs: Terri Dombrowski (profet2d@aol.com) & Bobby Henderson (rhen6020@gmail.com):

Feb. 6: Video 3 – The Power of a Dream: Early Black Methodism

Feb. 13: Video 4 – The Bible of Nat Turner: The Sword of the Spirit, The Word of God

Feb. 20: Video 5 – The Untold Story: Civil War/Lost Cause

Before each session, please visit <https://vaumc.org/racelationsvideos/> to watch the short video listed for each date and come with questions, observations, and comments.

United Methodist Women:

- The **Jean Craig Fellowship** will meet on Monday, February 7, at 7:00 PM in Room 205. We will work on Valentine gift bags for UMFS. We welcome any women who are looking for an evening circle. Call Susan Petrey for details.
- The **Ada Mae Bookman Fellowship** will meet on Thursday, February 10, at 10:30 AM in Davis Fellowship Hall. Call Martha Miles, 748-5476, for more information.

Leading Our Worship NEXT SUNDAY, February 13, 2022

Greeters:	8:30	Karen & Bill Comer	
	9:55	Wanda Reese	
	11:00	Tim & Beth Stewart	
Ushers:	8:30	Dave Coker*, Scouts	* Indicates Head Usher
	9:55	Linda D'Agostino*, JR Irvin	
	11:00	Gary Williams*, Dean Hutchins, Scouts	
Nursery:	9:55, 11:00	Staff Member, Alistia Mabry, plus a church volunteer	

Fort Lee Playhouse presents "The Diary of Anne Frank" (February 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 & 19 at 8 PM, and February 6, 13, & 20 at 3 PM). Call 804-734-6629 for tickets or more info. Our own Laura Morris is in the cast! Bobby Henderson will drive the church van for folks who want to attend on Sunday, February 13, and 20. *Sign up in the pew pad if you wish to ride in the van.*

Valentines for Veterans due TODAY: Valentine's Day is another opportunity to show our veterans at McGuire Hospital and Sitter and Barfoot Veterans Care Center that we remember them and their service to our country. Please write or make a couple of Valentine cards for our veterans. Examples of things to say are: "I remember you on Valentine's Day with love and appreciation," "I hope you're feeling better," "Sorry you're in the hospital," and "Thank you for your service," etc. Write something about yourself, maybe, but **DO NOT** sign your **last** name, just your first name. Address the envelopes: "To a Special Veteran," "To Someone Special," "To a Hero," "To My Valentine," etc. Please, do **not** seal envelopes. *Please place cards in the Valentines for Veterans box in the Sharing Bin in the rear parking lot.* Thank you for participating in this project. POC Barbara MacIntyre 748-0775

Need a Nametag? Contact Terry (cumcsecretary@chesterumc.org) or *register in the pew pad*, indicate how you want your name to appear on the tag, and drop a check in the offering plate (\$10 per nametag, payable to CUMC, Memo: Nametag). Please write legibly.

LOOKING AHEAD

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| February 6: | UMW Salad Luncheon in Davis Fellowship Hall (DFH)
Paint Party 4 All, 4 PM, DFH |
| February 7: | Jean Craig Fellowship, 7 PM, DFH
Christian Parenting Small Group, 7 PM, 116 |
| February 10: | Ada Mae Bookman Fellowship, 10 AM, DFH |
| February 13: | Super Bowl Soup Luncheon sponsored by UMW, noon, DFH |
| February 26: | Dixie Stone Celebration of Life, 3 PM in CUMC Sanctuary |
| March 1: | Pancake Supper, 6 PM, DFH
Ash Wednesday service following the meal in DFH |
| March 2: | Ash Wednesday service, at noon in the Sanctuary |
| March 4: | Family Movie Night, 6:40 PM, DFH |
| March 13 | Skate Party, Chester Skateland |
| April 10: | Easter Cantata at 8:30 and 11:00 in the Sanctuary |
| April 12: | Easter Cantata at 7 PM in the Sanctuary |
| April 14: | Holy Week Service, 7 PM, begins in DFH and moves to Sanctuary |
| April 15: | Feed More at Greenleigh, 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM |
| April 16: | Easter Egg Hunt at Goyne Park |
| April 24: | Confirmation Sunday at 8:30 and 11:00 services |
| April 30: | Choir Tea, 2-4 PM, DFH |

Chester UMC T-Shirt CONTEST: Pastor Nathan has a dream of a community flooded with all these disciples doing God's work *all wearing the same T-Shirt!* But what should be on this shirt? What witty phrase, scripture, or design. We are overly blessed with artists and quippers. Here's your chance to use that Spiritual Gift for God. *Please submit your T-Shirt Design no later than Sunday, February 27.* Yes, late submissions will be filed away for 2023. We can't wait to see what you come up for us to wear to share the Good News to the Community!

Order Your Chester UMC T-Shirts: God calls us to be witnesses for Christ in our world. One of the easiest ways for us to do this is to wear a shirt that somehow says "You'll See Christ's Love in Me." Pastor Nathan is hoping that every person in Chester UMC will want one, wear one, and do good works in God's name while doing so! *Please sign up in the pew pad with the sizes and number of shirts you and/or your family want.* Donations to cover the cost of yours or other Disciple's shirts are appreciated.



Paint Party!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 4:00PM

All ages welcome!

POC: Charlotte Brummette

charL208@yahoo.com

Kid's Communion

By Nathan Decker and Lisa Fong

Invitation in Song

**Jesus loves me, this I know
for the Bible tells me so.
He wants me to come and eat
learning love for all I meet.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me
Yes, Jesus loves me
Yes, Jesus love me
at this Table his love shows.**

Confession and Pardon in Song

**Jesus love me, this I pray
I messed up along the way.
Teach me how to grow and live
and to share all I can give.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me
Yes, Jesus loves me
Yes, Jesus love me
at this Table I can know.**

Passing of the Peace

Because Jesus opened his arms big enough to love and hug all of us,
let us hug and show we have arms big enough to love one another.

Time for sharing.

All are brought back together in the singing:

**Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.
Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight,
Jesus loves the little children of the world!**

The Great Thanksgiving

Dear God,
We love you with all our hearts.
You are good. You are great.
You created everything we see and don't see.

You saved the animals on the Ark with Noah.
You helped Moses free the enslaved.
You gave victory to David against giant problems.
You are good. You are great.

Father, I adore you. Lay my life before you. How I love you.

Dear God,
you loved us with all your heart.
You are good. You are great.
You sent Jesus as a baby in Bethlehem.
He grew up and taught people how to love
and what kind of people you wanted us to be.
Before he died, he invited his friends to a meal.
He took bread, told you "thank you," broke the bread
and gave to his friends saying,
"Take, Eat, this is my body given for you, do this in remembrance of me."
When the meal was over, he took a cup, told you "thank you,"
and gave the cup to his friends saying,
"Take, drink, this is the promise that God gives in my blood that he will forgive you, all of you.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Jesus, I adore you. Lay my life before you. How I love you.

Dear God,
show your love to us in being here today.
You are good. You are great.

Send your Holy Spirit on this bread and cup.
Help us know that you are here.
Help us show that you are near.

Send your Holy Spirit on us as your children.
Help us learn to grow and live.
Help us learn to share and give.

Spirit, I adore you. Lay my life before you. How I love you.

This we pray and as God's children say, **Amen.**