

Worship for November 21

GATHERING MUSIC

Michael Parker, Piano

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Give thanks, O people of God!

For God has blessed the world with life and showered the earth with love.

Give thanks, O people of God!

For Christ has given us his life and washed us in healing waters.

Give thanks, O people of God!

For the Spirit has not stopped moving in the world, calling us to lives of grateful praise.

OPENING MUSIC - *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*, arr. Mark Hayes

SEEKING GOD'S FORGIVENESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Holy One, you showed us what it means to live by your reign: sharing food with the hungry, freedom with the imprisoned, justice with the oppressed, and joy with the sorrowful. We ask your forgiveness, O God, for all the ways we fail to live as people who belong to your reign. Show us once more what our belonging means, for you are the beginning, you are the end, and in every time between, you fill our lives with grace. (silent prayers)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

HYMN - *Come, Thou Almighty King*, Hymn 2

SCRIPTURE READING - Isaiah 9: 1 – 7

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
6 For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7 His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

SERMON *A Long Way Off*

Rev. Dr. Charlie Lee

**ANTHEM - *Nothin' Gonna Stumble My Feet*, Greg Gilpin
Starmount Chancel Choir**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Offering boxes are available at the back of the sanctuary.
Gifts may also be made online at starmountpres.org.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN - *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*, Hymn 265, verses 1,3,4,5

BENEDICTION