

## Bearing the Word in the World

### \*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hear our prayers;  
Hold the secret longing of our hearts  
in the mystery of your love,  
that the light of the Kingdom  
will continue to shine on earth.  
May the dance of Christ  
be in our souls,  
the joy of the Spirit  
be in our living,  
and the love of the Maker fill our hearts.  
Amen.

\*Hymn No. 300..... “We Are One in the Spirit”

### \*Charge and Benediction

#### Acolyte Takes the Light of Jesus into the World


Sing Hymn No. 701 [x2] ..... “Sanctuary” as the Acolyte takes the light of Jesus into the world:

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried, and true.  
With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living sanctuary for you.

Postlude ..... “More Than Wonderful” [Lanny Wolfe]

#### Love & Prayers of the Congregation

Church Family: The Collins + Coleman Families – passing of Debbie’s Mother - Laura Coleman, The Graff Family, Vicky Tysor & Family, Pat Cosby, Wanda Burger, Andrew Mackie, Jane Riley, Bob Prescott, Barbara Fulp, Mary Elyn Humiston, Sherry Berman, Linda Habershaw | Military & Their Families: Andrew Reece (Son of BD & Tiffany Reece)

**Let’s Connect!** Visit [elkinpres.org](http://elkinpres.org) | 336.835.4545 |  Follow & Like us | CCLI License #21567499 + #21567509  
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Sunday, May 5, 2024

## Gathering Around the Word

*Music for Gathering*

\* Please stand as you are able

**Welcome and Announcements** ..... Stacey Libbert

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also, with you.**

**Prelude** ..... “Written in Red” [Gordon Jensen]

**Acolyte Enters with the Light of Christ** ..... Brenda Miller

*Please take this moment to center yourself and prepare for worship.*

# We Gather in the Presence of the Triune God

## \*Invitation to Celebrate

Go into the world to meet the people.

**Go into the world to find them no longer strangers,  
But the loved children of God,  
Waiting for the other child of God to embrace.**

Walk in love!

**Love is stretched out like the heavens above us.**

**Love is laid like a carpet of earth beneath our feet.**

Love surrounds us like the bright rays of the sun

And the sweet sounds of the gently falling rain.

**Walk in love!**

**Love is like a warm covering around our shoulders.**

**Let us worship the giver of love!**

\*Hymn No. 188....."Jesus Loves Me!"

## \*Prayer of Confession

**God of mercy, God of forgiveness,**

**Forgive us for our instance that**

**Our ways are more important than the gospel message.**

**Forgive us for our insistence that**

**saving face is more important than risking our all**

**to proclaim the selfless love of Christ to our neighbors.**

**God of Hope, God of Love,**

**plant your eternal hope and invincible love in our heart**

**so that we might be bold enough to give up our ways**

**when they become dead weight**

**rather than a crucible in which**

**the gospel can burn bright and strong. Amen**

## Assurance of Pardon

\*Gloria Patri No. 582 ..... "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

*World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

\*Sharing the Peace [Greet those near you with expressions of peace and friendship]

May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also, with you.**

Passing the Peace (Sing in Unison) ..... "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

"Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me. Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be. With God as our Father, family are we. Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony. Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now. With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow: To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally! Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me."

Time for the Young and the Young at Heart .....Rev. Arlo

[We invite all children to come to the front children's pew.]

\*Hymn No. 627..... "I Love You, Lord "

## Listening for the Word

Scripture Readings: 1 John 4:7-21 [Page 240] .....Stacey Libbert

John 15:9-177 [Page 109] .....Rev. Arlo

The Word of the Lord | **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon ..... "Agape" ..... Rev. Arlo

## Responding to the Word

Offertory ..... "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Today we will also receive the Cents-ability offering. Offerings may be mailed to/dropped off at the Church Office or given electronically through PayPal-visit our website at [www.elkinpres.org](http://www.elkinpres.org) or scanning the QR code using phone camera.



\*Doxology No. 606 (A Time to Praise God) ..... "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;*

*Praise him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*