



**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CENTERING MOMENT:**

*"You own everything that happened to you. Tell your stories. If people wanted you to write warmly about them, they should've behaved better." -Anne Lamott, "Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life"*

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

**#602 "CONCERNING THE SCRIPTURES"**

Blessed Lord, you have caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.

**HYMN #660 "God Is Here"**

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,  
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;  
here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech  
here in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;

Here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us, as of old.

Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore  
What it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, our church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt

Keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive;  
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

**PRAYER CONCERNS/PASTORAL/LORD'S PRAYER**

**HYMN SING**

**#251 "Go Tell it on the Mountain" v. 1 & 3**

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!  
While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!  
Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.  
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

**SCRIPTURE: 2 Kings 22:9-20**

This is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**All Praise to the Living Word!**

**HYMN #600 "Wonderful Words of Life"**

Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life;  
Let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life;  
Words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty.  
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.  
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

Christ, the blessed one, gives to all wonderful words of life;  
Sinner, list to the loving call, wonderful words of life;  
All so freely given, wooing us to heaven.  
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.  
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

Sweetly echo the gospel call, wonderful words of life;  
Offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life;  
Jesus, only Savior, sanctify forever.  
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.  
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

### **MESSAGE: Telling the Hard Truth**

### **OFFERING**

### **PRESENTING OUR GIFTS**

***DOXOLOGY UMH #95***

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

#### **HYMN #601 "Thy Word Is a Lamp"**

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.  
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.  
When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,  
Still, you're there right beside me,  
And nothing will I fear as long as you are near.  
Please be near me to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.  
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.  
Now I will not forget your love for me  
and yet my heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side,  
And I will love you to the end.  
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.  
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

### **BENEDICTION**

#### **FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE SONG**

*"May the Peace of the Lord Christ"*  
*May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,*  
*Wherever He may send you.*  
*May He guide you through the wilderness,*  
*protect you through the storm.*  
*May He bring you home rejoicing at the*  
*Wonders He has shown you.*  
*May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our*  
*doors.*

*With Love,*  
*Pastor Dani*