Our God is a God of power and strength!
God has created each of us with tender care.
Our God is a God of majesty and awe!
God walks with each of us every step of the way.
Our God is a God of glory and wonder!
God loves each of us with tenderness and passion.
Our God calls us each by name.
God calls each of us to unite in worship together!

OPENING HYMN No. 475 (Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing)
Verse 1: Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above; praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it, mount of God’s unchanging love!
Verse 2: Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I’m come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.
Verse 3: O to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be! Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here’s my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from brothers and sisters in Christ. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another. In your loving kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin. Remind us of the promises you make in baptism so that we may rise to new life and live together in grace. Amen.

CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE No. 144 (In the Bleak Midwinter) (Verse 4)
What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.
ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS AND PEACE
It is by faith we are justified and by grace we are forgiven. In Jesus Christ, we are at peace with God because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. Believe and now live the good news of the gospel, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made new. Thanks be to God!

The peace of Christ be with you.
    And also with you.

RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 145 (What Child Is This) (Verse 3)
So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE (Luke 3:15-17, 21-22)

ANTHEM (“Down to the River to Pray” Siena Hertafeld, vocalist)

MESSAGE (“Remember” by Rev. Robin Garvin)

RESPOND TO GOD’S GRACE

HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 486 (Child of Blessing, Child of Promise)
Verse 1: Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit’s sign, with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace and divine.

Verse 2: Child of love, our love’s expression, love’s creation, loved indeed! Fresh from God, refresh our spirits; into joy and laughter lead.

Verse 3: Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God’s you are, from God you came. Back to God we humbly give you: live as one who bears Christ’s name.

Verse 4: Child of God, your loving Parent, learn to listen for God’s call. Grow to laugh and sing and worship; trust and love God more than all.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostles’ 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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at 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 Spirit, 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

THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERTORY (“Wade in the Water”) (Offerings can be mailed to the church office or made online by visiting our website: www.valleycommunity.org)

♦ DOXOLOGY
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS
♦ CLOSING HYMN No. 488 (I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry)
Verse 1: “I was there to hear your borning cry; I’ll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold. I was there when you were but a child with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.”

Verse 2: “When you heard the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on. You were raised to praise the living Lord to whom you now belong. If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one, I’ll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.”

Verse 3: “In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young, I’ll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I’ve begun. When the evening gently closed in and you shut your weary eyes, I’ll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.”

Verse 4: “I was there to hear your borning cry; I’ll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.”

♦ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SENDING MUSIC