

WELCOME / INVOCATION

SONG: *Friend of God*

Verse

Who am I that You are mindful of me
That You hear me when I call
Is it true that You are thinking of me
How You love me it's amazing - **Repeat**

Chorus

I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
He calls me friend - **Repeat**

Verse

Who am I that You are mindful of me
That You hear me when I call
Is it true that You are thinking of me
How You love me it's amazing

Chorus

I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
He calls me friend

Bridge

God Almighty, Lord of Glory
You have called me friend- **Repeat 3x**

Chorus

I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
He calls me friend

SONG: *Here I am to worship*

Verse 1

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes and let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

Chorus

Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
Altogether lovely, altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

Verse 2

King of all days, oh so highly exalted
You're glorious in heaven above, yes You are
Humbly You came to this Earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

Chorus

Bridge

I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin up on that cross
I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin up on that cross

Chorus

Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
Altogether lovely, altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me – ***Repeat***

SONG: *Ever Be*

Your love is devoted
Like a ring of solid gold
Like a vow that is tested
Like a covenant of old
Your love is enduring
Through the winter rain
And beyond the horizon
With mercy for today
Faithful You have been
And faithful you will be
You pledge yourself to me
And it's why I sing

Your praise will ever be on my lips,
Ever be on my lips
Your praise will ever be on my lips,
Ever be on my lips
Your praise will ever be on my lips,
Ever be on my lips
Your praise will ever be on my lips,
Ever be on my lips

You Father the orphan
Your kindness makes us whole
And you shoulder our weakness
And your strength becomes our own
Now you're making me like you
Clothing me in white
Bringing beauty from ashes
For You will have Your bride
Free of all her guilt and rid of all her
shame
And known by her true name
And it's why I sing

Your praise will ever be on my lips,
Ever be on my lips
Your praise will ever be on my lips,
Ever be on my lips
Your praise will ever be on my lips,
Ever be on my lips
Your praise will ever be on my lips,
Ever be on my lips

You will be praised
You will be praised
With angels and saints do we sing
Worthy are You Lord
You will be praised
You will be praised
With angels and saints do we sing
Worthy are You Lord
You will be praised
You will be praised
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. . .

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Welcome to worship with First and Holy Cross churches! Remember to join us for a delicious lunch today following worship in the Fellowship Hall.
- Help us celebrate and decorate for the Resurrection of our Lord with **Easter Lilies!** Please fill out order forms on the ushers table in the back and place them in the offering bins. The cost per plant is \$15.00.
- Join us for our weekly Lenten study this Wednesday evening, with a soup supper beginning at 6:00 p.m., and Bible study starting at 6:30 p.m. This week's topic is "**Jesus Healing the Man Born Blind**" in John 9:1-41.
- The **First Church Anniversary Committee** will meet after worship today.
- We are welcoming **Pastor Paul F. Arnold** to preach next Sunday as a part of our centennial celebration. Pastor Arnold served us from 1970-2020.
- Everyone is invited to come to the annual **Passover Seder** held by Holy Cross and Tikvah Israel Churches on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. There is a sign-up sheet and costs \$15.00/person. Come learn the meaning behind the Seder meal!
- We're looking for volunteers to help with **Vacation Bible School** this spring, Parents, mark your calendars for **June 15-19, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** Our theme this year is: "**True North**", where the kids will have an unforgettable Alaskan adventure! This year we will be adding a track for 4 & 5-year-olds, as well as the elementary youth. Registration will begin in April.

CHILDRENS MESSAGE - *The elementary-aged children are excused for Flame, our Sunday School class.*

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.

16 The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”

² But Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.”

The Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’” ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.”

⁴ Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, “Do you come in peace?”

⁵ Samuel replied, “Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord.”

⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The Lord has not chosen this one either.” ⁹ Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the Lord chosen this one.” ¹⁰ Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The Lord has not chosen these.” ¹¹ So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?”

“There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.”

Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”

¹² So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”

¹³ So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

R: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴ This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

R: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL READING: John 9:1-41

P: The Holy Gospel, according to Saint John.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

9 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

³ “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ⁷ “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

⁸ His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.”

But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

¹⁰ “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked.

¹¹ He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”

¹² “Where is this man?” they asked him.

“I don’t know,” he said.

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight.

“He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.”

But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided.

¹⁷ Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.”

The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸ They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents. ¹⁹ “Is this your son?” they asked. “Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?”

²⁰ “We know he is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind. ²¹ But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were

afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴ A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God by telling the truth,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.”

²⁵ He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”

²⁶ Then they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

²⁷ He answered, “I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?”

²⁸ Then they hurled insults at him and said, “You are this fellow’s disciple! We are disciples of Moses! ²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.”

³⁰ The man answered, “Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. ³² Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

³⁴ To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

³⁶ “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”

³⁷ Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

³⁸ Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

³⁹ Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”

⁴⁰ Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?”

⁴¹ Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Michael Breznen

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Father of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

P: Most merciful God,

C: We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and are not worthy to be called your children. Have mercy on us and turn us from our sinful ways. Bring us back to you as those who were once dead but now have life, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in love. Through the Holy Spirit God gives life, freedom from the power of sin, and resurrection from the dead. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Live and walk in the newness of life.

C: Amen.

THE OFFERING

Your OFFERING is received in the back of the church. Separate BOXES are available for both Holy Cross & First Evangelical churches.

For First Evangelical only, you can give online at www.felcwpb.com or TEXT2GIVE 844-504-1678 Or Scan QR Code.

THE PRAYERS

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and Praise.



SONG: “*Holy, Holy, Holy*”

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of Hosts
Heaven and Earth Are full of Your Glory!
Hosanna! (Hosanna!) In the Highest
Blessed is he who comes In the name of the Lord!
Hosanna! (Hosanna!) In the Highest

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD’S PRAYER

C: 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 and ever. Amen.

THE DISTRIBUTION – CONTINUOUS FORMAT (*Silence is appreciated*)

We practice Open Communion at Holy Cross and First Evangelical. If you believe that the Holy Sacrament carries with it the promises of the forgiveness of sins and eternal life and are a **baptized Christian** – you are welcome to receive. We do ask, however, that younger children who have not yet been instructed in the meaning of the sacrament - please come to the chancel for a blessing but refrain from receiving. Grape juice is in the center of the communion trays.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

WELCOME to all and thank you for joining us in worship today as we give thanks and praise to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We pray that the service will be meaningful and uplifting for you. If you are a first-time visitor, please sign the Guest Register. You are invited to stay for coffee and refreshments following the service. We very much would like to greet you and hope to make you feel welcome.

Serving in Worship

- Pastors** - Rev. Daniel D. Baker & Rev. Dr. Michael Breznen
- Crucifers** - Tom Kalorgis, Hilka Schroderus-Rowe
- Liturgists** - Dianne Breznen
- Communion Assistants** - Dianne Breznen, Hilka Schroderus-Rowe
- Sound/Live Stream** - Ken Burton
- Video** - Sera Butz, Scot Alexander

	This Week	Next Week
Musicians / Singers	CAC-WPB	Sandra Baran
Lector	Kathrine Summers	Karina Baker & Vince Burkhardt
Ushers	Katherine S., Judith M.	Katherine S., Judith M.
Greeters	Bob S. & Susan M.	Bob S. & Susan M.

Remember in Prayer

We pray for peace between nations and peoples and for just resolutions to the conflicts throughout the world – especially the people of Israel and fellow believers facing life-threatening persecution; those in war-torn countries; for all members of our armed services and law enforcement personnel; for our country and our nation’s leaders; for the Church, Church leaders, for **Youth for Christ**, and all faithful witnesses to the Gospel; for our missionaries – **Anthony** and **Soyoung Sellari** and their work in Egypt.

We pray for God’s healing presence to be with: **Gerard, Elihana, The Family of Bill Peterson, The Family of Cyndy Sellari, Kenny, Debbie Ann, Luis & Foil, Saul & Martha, Carol & Darryl, Dennis, Bill, Cynthia, Dylan, John, Lisa & Don, Raj, Sandy, Carl, Trish, Lou, Allan, Carson, David, Gertrude, Holly, Katie, Linda, Marilynn & Patrick, Lesley, Linda, Joan** and members of the **Holy Cross and First Evangelical Church families** who are at home and unable to attend.

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Church Office Hours
Monday – Wednesday – Friday
9 a.m. until 1 p.m.