



*Blessed Are Those (Cara B. Hochhalter)*

**February 16, 2025**  
**The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

**Ministers**  
**Pastor**  
**Director of Faith Formation Ministries**  
**Director of Music**  
**Organist/Accompanist**  
**Director of Preschool**  
**Maintenance Superintendent**  
**Administrator/Recording Treasurer**

**All the People of Covenant**  
**Rev. Rachel H. Vogado**  
**Jewel Aagaard**  
**Richard Rudolph**  
**Ronn Lowe**  
**Anne Craig**  
**Mark Overacker**  
**Gail Schuler**

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# Loving God, Loving People, Making Disciples

## Gathering

*\*Please stand as you are able*

### \*Chiming of the Hour and Presentation of the Word

**Prelude**

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"  
arr. Diane Bish

### Welcome and Covenant Life

*During our morning announcements,  
please take time to pass and sign the friendship pads.*

### Joys and Concerns of the Church Family

**Introit**

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"  
arr. Joseph M. Martin/Brant Adams

### \*Call to Worship

One: Blessed are those who trust in God,  
who delight to meditate on God's law.

**All: We long to hear the Word of God  
and let the Word shape our lives.**

One: Blessed are all who seek the realm of God,  
who hunger to find meaning in their lives.

**All: We intend to give our best to our Creator,  
bearing fruit in all we say and do.**

One: Blessed are the ones who serve God with joy,  
who risk all they have in faithfulness and hope.

**All: We come now to worship and find new life,  
to receive healing and empowerment for our journey.**

One: So come, let us place our trust in God!

**All: Let us live in blessed faith together!  
Let us worship God!**

### \*Hymn #65

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

### Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession *(unison prayer)*

**Merciful God, your call to discipleship is demanding. You call us to reorder our lives by the kingdom you are bringing in Jesus Christ. Yet we still pass by the ones you especially notice: people who are hungry and poor; people who weep. We have not stood with those who are hated, bullied, and excluded. Comfortable with the way things are, we are too complacent, even complicit with injustice and prejudice. Forgive us, O God, and turn us back to your gospel. We pray this now, for our sake, and for the sake of your world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Declaration of Forgiveness

### \*Passing of the Peace *(Greet one another, "Peace be with you.")*

*Children are invited to come forward.*

### Time with Our Children

Jewel Aagaard  
Director of Faith Formation

*Children ages 4 – 11 may leave for Children's Worship  
and will return during the last hymn.*

## Teaching

### \*Hymn #621

"I Will Call upon the Lord"

**Prayer for Illumination**

Kevin Aagaard

**Old Testament Reading**

Jeremiah 17:5-10 (Pew Bible, OT p. 678)

**Gospel Reading**

Luke 6:17-26 (Pew Bible, NT pp. 55-56)

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God**

**Sermon**

"Leveling with Us"

Rev. Rachel H. Vogado

**\*Affirmation of Faith** (from the *Confession of Belhar*)

**We believe that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people; that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged that God calls the church to follow him in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry; that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind; that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly; that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering; that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right; that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

**Anthem**

"Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God Almighty!"  
arr. Robert Sterling

## **Nurturing**

**Celebration of Giving+**

**Offertory**

"Lobe den Herren"  
Philip Moore

**\*Doxology, #608**

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Holy Spirit, evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.***

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession with the Lord's Prayer**

## **Reaching**

**\*Hymn #353**

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Choral Benediction**

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"  
arr. William Stickles

**Congregational Meeting**

**Music Notes from Ronn Lowe:** Our Prelude this week, "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing," is a gospel hymn focused on God's blessings and divine grace. Listen for the beautiful flutes of our organ, reflecting great joy and gladness for God's mercies! The hymn tune "Nettleton" is an American folk tune from the early 19th century. Many contemporary artists have recorded versions of this hymn, including Audrey Assad, Jars of Clay, Mercy Me, and Chris Tomlin. This arrangement is by Diane Bish, an influential organist, concert artist, and composer, known as the "First Lady of the Organ." I attended a Church Music Explosion Workshop with Miss Bish when I was in college, and she held a concert at St. Andrew's Church in Roanoke in 2018.

**Welcome!** We are blessed to have you join our worship today, and we hope to keep seeing you! More information about Covenant is available on our website at [covenantroanoke.org](http://covenantroanoke.org) and you can also follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter. We would love to get to know you better, and a card is available in the pew before you to begin this journey together.

**Greetings, Parents!** Children are always welcome in our worship services. If you so choose, a professionally staffed nursery is available for children ages 3 and younger. Please ask an usher for assistance. **We also have a Parents Room** just outside the Sanctuary with a changing table and rocking chairs.

**You will find Children's bulletins and activity bags** on the table in Heritage Hall. **We offer Children's Worship** during the second half of the service for children ages 4 to 11.

**You are invited to share your Joys and Concerns by writing them in the book on the stand outside the sanctuary.** These will be included in the Prayers of the People during our worship service. (If you have a concern of a personal nature, please speak with the pastor or contact the office.)

**Join us for Mingle and Munch!** After worship, all are welcome to gather in Heritage Hall (the entrance area) to visit with church members and guests while enjoying light refreshments. Thank you to Kevin Aagaard and Christopher Bircher for hosting this morning!

***We extend our sympathy and prayers to Joe Hopkins and family on the passing of his beloved wife and our long-time member, Linda Hopkins, on Sunday, February 9, 2025, in South Carolina. A Celebration of Life will be held on April 19, 2025, in Roanoke.***

**Elder of the Month:** Christopher Bircher  
**Deacon of the Month:** Kevin Aagaard  
**Assistant Deacon of the Month:** John Munton



**In Our Prayers...**

**Congregation:** Audrey Bashlor, Todd Baumgardner, Christine Beck, Mary Jane Fisher, Dick Frahm, Lynnmarie Hancock, Jerry Lawson, Lindsey Nanz, Ann Cecil Renick, Carol Ryan, Brian Slack, June and Forrest Smith, Jinx Weary, Jo Wilson, Betty Young, caregivers, military service members and families

**Family & Friends:** Greg Adcox, Rob Ahlers, Lowell Bashlor, Jr., Kenneth Benner, Mike Cummings, Patrick Dooley, Maria Dreiling, Cesia Enriquez, Heather Ford, Debbie Helms, Jo Jones, Emma Grace Kessler, Pauline Mudrick, Kathy Roberts, Ezra Schuyler Soto, Joe Wallace, Daniel Woodbury, Religious violence against Christians in northeast India, Mission co-workers Tyler & Rochelle Holm and the people of Malawi, Jim McGill (Niger)

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