

Words to Ponder: Camels are quirky and resilient creatures provisioned by God for long journeys and unwelcoming climates. How has God provisioned and blessed us for our journey?

**Gathering Music “Hallelujah” Performed by The United States
Air Force Band's Singing Sergeants**

Words of Welcome | +Passing of the Peace Rev. Ann Hayman

Call to Worship (Jeremiah 31) Elder Glenn Johnson

For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

Proclaim, give praise, and say ‘Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.’

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,

Among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together;

A great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back.

+Opening Hymn “The First Nowell” PH #56

Call to Confession (Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-16) Elder Glenn Johnson

Unison Prayer of Confession (Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-16)

Redeem your world, O God. We lament the destruction caused by worldly rulers extending their power through force. We lament the ways that the tendrils of oppression have taken hold among your people, your creation.

Redeem your people, O Holy One. Too often, we fail to act in ways that reflect your love. Too often, we fail to speak your truth. When it is easier for us to do nothing, help us act. When it is easier for us to say nothing, give us words to speak. Turn us away from sin, liberate us from the grasp of oppression, and lead us towards new life in Christ. Amen.

Words of Assurance (John 1:16) Elder Glenn Johnson

Children's Message **"The Wonder of Camels"** **Rev. Ann Hayman**

Reception of New Members **Rev. Ann Hayman | Elder Robert Duitsman**
Regina Carter, Carol Mitchell, Alexis Williams

Anthem **"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"** **Tuskegee Institute Choir**

Prayer for Illumination (John 1:1-5) **Elder Glenn Johnson**

Scripture: Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21 **Elder Glenn Johnson**

Sermon **"Following Stars"** **Rev. Ann Hayman**
Matthew 2:2-12

Words of Faith (Inclusive Language Text of the Confession of 1967)

"In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes.

Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor and won the victory over sin and death for all."

The Lord's Supper **Rev. Ann Hayman | Elder Glenn Johnson**

Words of Invitation

Here at this table and in this sanctuary, let the Divine Spark enter our lives.

Let the Holy Light aid us in seeing the Christ in our midst.

The Brightness of Jesus the Christ will illuminate our way.

The Radiance of the Christ will warm our hearts.

God is shining upon you!

And God's light streams upon you!

Open your hearts.

We open them to the brilliance of God.

Let us give thanks for the light and love of God.

We praise our Creator with joy and thanksgiving.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution | Receiving the Elements

(The bread is eaten when received. Please hold the cup until all are served.)

Prayer following Communion

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Ann Hayman

The Offering

Call to Giving (Ephesians 1:3-4)

Elder Glenn Johnson

Offertory

Elder Dr. Hansonia Caldwell-Harriford

+Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise Him all
creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen**

Prayer of Dedication

Announcements

Elder Glenn Johnson

Closing Hymn

"We Three Kings"

PH #66

Charge and Benediction (John 1:12)

Rev. Ann Hayman

Children of God, go forth into the world and join God's work.

**May the God of all times and places continue to guide us here and
now; may the Holy Spirit that swept over the waters of creation
continue to give us strength; and may the light of Christ, through who
all things came into being, continue to shine through each of you until
we are all gathered together again.**

Go in peace.

Postlude

"Carol of the Bells"

LV Gospel Project