Sunday, July 15, 2012 9:00am

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As the prelude plays, silently come into the Lord’s presence.

Open your heart and give yourself up to Christ

who is here to meet you today.

*“Be still and know that I am God.”* Psalm 46:10

PRELUDE *“Rock of Ages”* - Hastings, arr. Heather Sorenson

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS / RINGING OF THE BELL

 (Please sign the Fellowship Pad and pass it to your neighbor)

CALL TO WORSHIP *Psalm 38*

 Leader: But it is for You, O Lord, that I wait;

 it is You, O Lord my God, who will answer.

 **People: O my God, do not be far from me;**

 **make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation.**

\*HYMN *“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”* *No. 263*

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God, You renew us and give us hope at all times in our life. During this summer You provide us with opportunities for rest and opportunities for renewed energies for our work. In Christ we know that we can decrease so that he can increase. We want to make sure that all we do and say is to Your glory. Forgive us for not appreciating all the gifts in our lives. Forgive us for seeing the negative in everything and overlooking the blessings. Through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE

*[Please share Christ’s peace with one another with*

 *handshakes, hugs, kisses—however you feel led.]*

SPECIAL MUSIC *“God Speaking”* - Sung by Mandisa Emily Ott, Voice

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *Hosea 6:6 (OT p839)*

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *John 3:25-36 (NT p94)*

SERMON **The Gospel of John** Rev. Robert K. Bronkema

*“Decreasing So God Will Increase”*

\*HYMN *“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”* *No. 356*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER *(p.16 in the Hymnal)*

WE BRING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

 OFFERTORY  *“‘Tis the Gift to be Simple”* - arr. Robert Lau

Theme & Variations

 \*DOXOLOGY

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

\*HYMN *“Jesus Loves Me”* *No. 304*

\*BENEDICTION & CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me. Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be. With God as our Father, brothers all are we. Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony. Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now. With every step I take let this be my solemn vow. To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally. Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.**

\*POSTLUDE *“And Can It Be?*” - Campbell, arr. Carolyn Hamlin

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***“Come As You Are”***

11:11am

\*Praise & Worship

Greeting & Announcements

Prayer & Peace

Sacrament of Baptism

Children’s Message

Scripture Reading:

 *Hosea 6:6*

 *John 3:25-36*

Sermon *“Decreasing So God Will Increase”*

Offertory

\* Closing Song

\*Benediction

The Sacrament of Baptism is given this morning to Connor Stephen Stoltzfus, son of Daniel & Stephanie Stoltzfus, grandson of Steve & Lisa Fisher and great-grandson of Clayton & Joyce Frackman, and to Connor’s father, Daniel Wayne Stoltzfus, Jr. This makes three generations who were baptized in this church (Connor, Stephanie & Lisa).

Sermon Notes: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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