

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Congregation of the ELCA

28200 Portsmouth Drive, Sun City, CA 92586 * (951) 679-1518

Email: faithlutheranmenifee@gmail.com

Guest Pastor: Pr. Shane Freiberg

OFFICE HOURS: Tues & Thurs 8:30 - 5:00; Fri 8:30 - 12:30

Worship Plan for Sunday, June 28, 2026 * Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME TO FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, where grace and love abound. While we wait and prepare for a new pastor, we invite you to participate fully in the vibrant life of the congregation, and to join us in prayer as we continue to serve God and God's people during this time of transition.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Enriching lives through faith and God's grace.

MEMBERS & GUESTS: Please fill out a worship attendance card found in the pew racks. Prayer requests may be included on the reverse side for one Sunday or bulletin publication.

INVITATION TO BAPTISM: We would like to extend to you the blessing of Baptism and encourage you to contact the church office to be baptized.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION: Christ is truly present through the power of God's Holy Spirit. We invite everyone to come forward and be renewed in the covenant God made with us in our baptism. All are gladly invited and welcome. If, in coming forward, you choose not to receive the Sacrament, we ask you to fold your hands over your chest so you may receive a pastoral blessing. The Sacrament will be brought to those unable to come forward to the altar (notify an usher). Available upon request: gluten-, wheat-, corn-, dairy- and soy-free wafers.

CHILDREN'S COMMUNION: Families are encouraged to come to the rail together during the distribution. Children may receive Communion or a special blessing from the Pastor.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School for children of all ages is immediately following the Children's Chat during the regular school schedule.

CELL PHONES: Please silence your cell phones before Worship.

Following worship, ALL are invited to join us for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.

Introduction to the day

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

GOSPEL MESSAGE: From Welcome to Belonging

In just a few verses, the word welcomes sets the tone in this week's gospel passage. There are transactional aspects when we welcome guests into our personal spaces, or when we are welcomed by others. We are aware of the power dynamics between host and guest, and the welcome that is given and received reflects our understanding of these roles. There are also different degrees of welcome. For example, it is one thing to experience a welcome of our physical presence, and quite a different matter when our perspectives and opinions are welcomed. The former relies on host-guest roles; the latter relies on a relationship being formed beyond culturally established roles.

It is no surprise that congregations pay attention to their welcome practices. Some even adopt and publicize welcome statements. Congregations usually consider how visitors or guests come into their space for a worship service they host. When deeper welcome practices are employed, we can grow in our understanding of how we give and receive. This provides an interesting opportunity to consider that welcoming is more than just hospitality. We can also consider how the worship event happens because we are gathered by the Holy Spirit, so God is our host and we are all guests in that space.

Moving worship beyond a typical guest-host transaction, the reward is experiencing our belonging together as people of God. Belonging means welcoming one another into shared space. Seeking a wide expression of belonging challenges power dynamics that might otherwise remain in place in more traditional guest-and-host situations. Belonging is a culture we in congregations can cultivate and a gift we can share.

Please stand for the Processional

PROCESSIONAL: *Come, All You People: Uyaimose* (ELW 819)

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AM: WELCOME

Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church where grace and love abound. A special welcome to those of you here for the first time, to those joining us online, and to our guest pastor, Pr. Shane Freiberg. During this season of Pentecost we celebrate all the ways in which the Holy Spirit moves us and empowers us to strengthen our relationships with God and with our neighbors locally and globally. As our search for a permanent pastor moves forward, so does our ministry together. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate in all that goes on here at Faith.

AM: ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers were provided by Ellyn Merendino, celebrating her birthday and by Nancy Randolph celebrating Robin's birthday.

This is the last week to participate in the Christmas in July Giving Tree! This year, the recipient will be the women's shelter here in Menifee. More details are available in the Narthex.

This Wednesday, July 1st come over to the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 for our next ice cream social!

This Saturday, July 4th is our next Donation Drop Off day from 9:00am - 12:00pm. For July, we are collecting small jars of peanut butter, grocery bags, and empty egg cartons for the Community Cupboard.

ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

This next quarter Outreach is collecting beef sticks, beef jerky and body wash/shower gel (any size) for MilVet.

You will find more information about what's happening at Faith in the Narthex.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS, BEV AND TOM!

P: We are here this morning to welcome Bev and Tom into our community of Faith Lutheran Church. We are not a building, but the gathered family of God. We are brothers and sisters in Christ, given this new identity through our baptism

into Jesus' death and resurrection. Today we welcome you as members of this family in the larger body of Christ.

And so we ask, do you desire to join the membership of Faith Lutheran Church? If so please answer: "We do."

I ask the congregation to stand and join in confessing our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

A: I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

A: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

A: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

P: Having together confessed our faith in the Triune God, we now welcome you into the family of our congregation and into the ministry of the church. As active followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to spread his Good News. We encourage you to accept that call through your involvement in the church.

C: We welcome you as a brother and a sister in Christ, and thank God for this unique opportunity to serve God and one another. May the God to whom we belong equip us for every good work that we do together in God's name.

New Members: We welcome and accept your invitation and commit ourselves to using our time and talents for the good of the congregation.

P: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, as you called James and John, Simon and Andrew to fish for people, so you have called us to serve you with our own talents and resources. We thank you for bringing to us these new members to Faith Lutheran Church. You have told us that wherever two or more are gathered in your name, there you are with them. Help us, we pray, to see and feel that presence and that

others may come to know you through our interactions and through your ever-present love and grace. We pray all of this in the name our Savior Jesus Christ.

A: Amen

P: Let us welcome our new members as they return to their seats!

SILENCE

AM: Let us take a moment of silence to quiet our hearts and minds and prepare for worship.

P: GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

P: GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made,

let us rejoice and be glad in it!

AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 414

Please stand as you are willing and able.

GATHERING SONG: *Holy God, We Praise Your Name* (ELW 414, vs. 1, 4)

Public Domain; Sources: Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820–1900; Music: *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Vienna, 1774

P: CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

God 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.

Amen.

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

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

P: PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S CHAT

P: WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST LESSON INTRODUCTION

Through a symbolic action Jeremiah insisted that Judah and all the surrounding nations should submit to the king of Babylon (Jer. 27). Hananiah contradicted the word of Jeremiah, who in reply insisted that Hananiah's rosy prediction should not be believed until it came true. God confirmed the word of Jeremiah and sentenced the false prophet Hananiah to death (vv. 16-17).

LECTOR: FIRST READING: Jeremiah 28:5-9

⁵ The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD, ⁶ and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words

that you have prophesied and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD and all the exiles. ⁷ But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸ The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹ As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM INTRODUCTION

The reign of God with David, anchored in the love and faithfulness of the one God, ensures the endurance of David’s throne and, what’s more, the flourishing of the world. Because the God who made a covenant with David loves and is faithful, David’s throne stands secure forever. And because God and David reign together in might, all is right in the world.

LECTOR: PSALMODY: Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

¹ Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing; from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

² **For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever; you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**

³ “I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

⁴ **‘I will establish your line forever, and preserve your throne for all generations.’”**

¹⁵ Happy are the people who know the festal shout! They walk, O LORD, in the light of your presence.

¹⁶ **They rejoice daily in your name; they are jubilant in your righteousness.**

¹⁷ For you are the glory of their strength, and by your favor our might is exalted.

¹⁸ **Truly, our shield belongs to the LORD; our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

Amen.

SECOND LESSON INTRODUCTION

Having settled the question how faith in the grace of Jesus Christ overcomes our sin, Paul now turns to the moral implications of that victory. He thinks of sin no longer “exercising dominion” over us. The Greek verb for this is **kurieuo,** a

derivative of *kurios* (= lord). So the issue really becomes, “who is our lord and what does that mean for the way we live?” To explain further Paul draws an analogy with slavery, something very common in the 1st century CE and most probably within the Roman Christian community itself.

Paul claimed to be “speaking in human terms” (vs. 19), but the vividness of his analogy must have been unimaginably clear to his readers who had such personal acquaintance with that ghastly institution. Not that a Christian was totally freed to live in a libertine manner. Having been freed from slavery to sin, we are now “enslaved to God.” That means nothing short of sanctification, a wholly different kind of life the end of which is not death, but eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.” (vss. 22-23).

LECTOR: SECOND READING: Romans 6:12-23

¹² Do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires. ¹³ No longer present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. ¹⁵ What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted ¹⁸ and that you, having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to even more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification. ²⁰ When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

L: Please stand for the gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL INTRODUCTION

What does it mean to be received in Christ's name? An ancient Jewish oral tradition required that a man's emissary be received as the man himself. It would appear that this attitude is reflected in vs. 40. But it goes further to extend the authority of the apostles stated in 10:1 to that of emissaries of God. The cup of cold water was a metaphor for any minor service rendered to one of these.

P: GOSPEL: Matthew 10:40-42

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ⁴⁰ "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, ⁴² and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: Pr. Shane Freiberg

AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 641

Please stand as you are willing and able.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *All Are Welcome* (ELW 641)

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AM: Please be seated for the Prayers of Intercession

PASTOR AND ASSISTING MINISTER: PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

Faithful God, establish your church to offer welcome and proclaim your peace. Nourish us so we can proclaim your hope to the world. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Creator God, bring life to places experiencing drought, deforestation, and pollution. Help us to cultivate and care for the natural world around us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, bring an end to conflict and division. Sustain the work of prophets in our time, and work through world leaders to foster understanding, justice, and peace. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Provider God, give your children what they need physically, emotionally, and spiritually, especially Briana; Ian Berger; Mary Booth; Judy Brosz; Rich and Sandy Chandler; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz; Doris Hays; Sarge Hunter; Mike Latchford; Don Little; Donna McCain; Sandra Miller; Dee Mills; Michael Myers; Janet Oster; Amy Sinclair; Joyce Stromberg; Kiki Thomas; Nicholas Thomas; Diana Ward; the homebound; those in care facilities; the emergency responders; and those grieving and anticipating surgery or tests. At this time, we also pray for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Bless caregivers as they show God's hospitality through their generous service. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Living God, lead us from death to life. Inspire new ministries and endeavors, renew established ones, and strengthen our welcoming presence to our neighbors. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Eternal God, we remember the faithful departed of this community and of the wider church and world. We give thanks for saints of all times and places. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Loving God, be with us during this time of discernment as our search for a permanent pastor continues. Fill all Ministry Leaders and Call Committee members with wisdom and patience as we continue to further the work of your kingdom. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

P: PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

P: OFFERING

Let us remember at this time of Offering, that all we have and all we are given are gifts from God. Our offerings of time, talent and treasures are expressions of gratitude to God for all we have received. May we show abundant gratitude. During the musical offering, the usher will bring the offering plate forward to be lifted up to the Lord.

Please feel free to either listen to our musical offering or sing along

MUSICAL OFFERING: *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* (sung by Gladys Knight)

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AM: OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

P: INSTRUCTION FOR COMMUNION

All of God's children are welcome to Christ's table. Gather at the altar rail. If you wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. You may choose from red wine or white grape juice. A gluten-free option is available upon request. If you would like communion brought to you at your seat, indicate by raising your hand for the Assisting Minister to see and they will bring communion to you.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

Come to the Table (sung by Sidewalk Prophets)

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I am the Bread of Life (ELW 485)

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Eat This Bread: Jesus Christ, Bread of Life (ELW 472)

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AM: PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

P: BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

P: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 595

Please stand as you are willing and able.

SENDING SONG: *Jesus Loves Me!* (ELW 595, vs. 1, 2)

With Pr. Ken on guitar

Public Domain; Sources: Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.; Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

AM: INVITATION

We would like to invite guests and visitors to come and join us in the Fellowship Hall for cake, coffee and conversation. Come and welcome our new members!

AM: DISMISSAL

AM: You have been empowered for ministry.

C: Thanks be to God. We will share the good news of Jesus.

THIS WEEK AT FAITH

Monday, the 29th: Council meeting begins at 11:00

Wednesday, the 1st: Ice Cream Social begins at 6:30

Thursday, the 2nd: Snip 'N Stitch meets at 9:00

Friday, the 3rd: Al-Anon meets at 10:30

Saturday, the 4th: Donation Drop Off is open from 9:00 - 12:00 and Happy 250th birthday, America!

Sunday, the 5th: Worship begins at 9:30 with Pr. Rex

If you know of someone on our prayer list who no longer needs urgent prayer, please notify the church office.

THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY:

ASSISTING MINISTER: Candy

LECTOR: Bill

COMMUNION SERVER: Debbie

POWER POINT: Mars

USHER: Karla

ATTENDANCE: Kandie

GREETER: Diane M.

ALTAR GUILD: Mars, Debbie

SOUND: Maddie

LIVE STREAM: Madeline

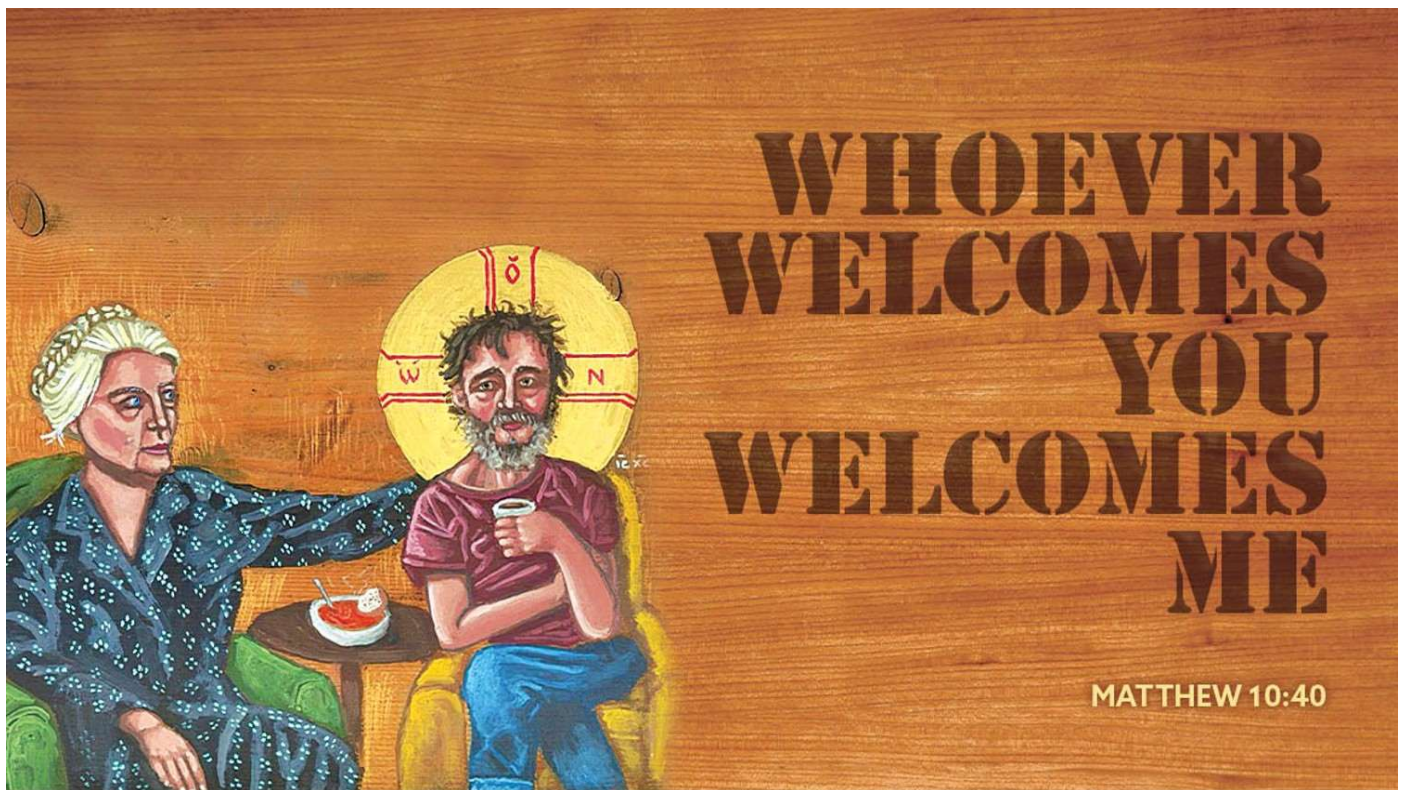
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Zelle
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