

**Ephraim Moravian Church  
Chief Elder Festival**

November 15th, 2020 at 10.00 a.m.

**Order of Service**

**“Steal Away” - Traditional Spiritual**

Welcome and Announcements

**“Sweet Chance, That Led my Steps Abroad” - by Michael Head**

Call to Worship: *O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

- Psalm 8

**Hymn #399 (v. 1-3): “All Hail, Our Church’s Elder Dear”**

All hail, our church’s Elder dear, O Jesus, glorious head!  
To your disciples now appear as risen from the dead.  
Let our rejoicing souls in you the tokens of your passion view  
And hear your gentle voice anew say, ‘Peace be unto you!’

Rememb’ring what our fathers told they did in their young day,  
This solemn jubilee we hold. May we, as then did they  
Ourselves in covenant now bind with soul and strength, with heart and mind  
Through life, in death, on land, o’er sea, to your disciples be!

Revive your work; amid the years our members still employ  
On needy souls to sow in tears, with hope to reap in joy  
‘Though wide the fields, the laborers few, if you our failing faith renew  
‘Though weak, we as your servants, Lord, may still fulfill your word!

Prayers of the Church / The Lord's Prayer

Old Testament Lesson: Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 23-24

**“I Remember Sky” – by Stephen Sondheim**

New Testament Lesson: Hebrews 4: 14-16

**“Let All Things Now Living” – Lyrics by Katherine Davis**

Reflection

Sermon

Benediction

**“The Wedge” Fugue in E Minor – by J.S. Bach**

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### **Reflection – by Rev. Cory Kemp**

Watching a favorite episode of the old television series, M\*A\*S\*H, reminded me why its stories and characters still touch and teach me almost forty years after the program ended.

In a scene featuring a conversation between Chief Surgeon, Hawkeye Pierce, and the hospital unit's Chaplain, Father Mulcahy, the latter is lamenting that he doesn't feel as if he is making much of a difference. His prayers, worship services, counseling and confessionals don't appear to provide much comfort or support to those he is charged to shepherd.

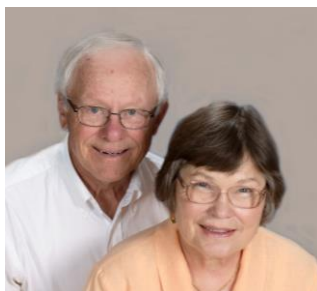
Hawkeye, an incredibly skilled surgeon not known for sharing or relying on the faith Father Mulcahy professes and preaches, listens attentively to the priest's own confession about his concerns that he isn't doing enough, or even doing anything right. Then, the semi-agnostic doctor shares that, as good as his skills are, more than once during an operation he wasn't good enough to bring about the positive outcome for the patient that transpired. He assures Father Mulcahy that he does make a difference.

When gathering to determine the future leadership of the Moravian Church, those who came together were seeking a human understanding of a sacred direction toward which they were about to embark. The decision they came to, electing Jesus Christ as our Chief Elder, was an act of tangible faith that still impacts all of us gathered here today. “Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

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Pastor.....Dawn E. Volpe  
Music Director.....Colin Welford  
Lay Reader.....Elfi Johnson  
Musicians.....Jeff Herbst, Pete and Barbara Classen



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