



January 7, 2024

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Invocation

\*Hymns and Songs of Worship and Adoration

Come, Christians, Join to Sing (TH #302)

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (TH #296)

\*Confession of Faith – Nicene Creed

\*New Testament Scripture – Matthew 1:1-6, 16-17 (pg. 807)

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Declaration of Absolution

Pastoral Prayer

\*Worship through giving back to God

Fairest Lord Jesus (TH #170)

Sermon – The Women of Christmas, Part 7: Bathsheba

2 Samuel 11:1 – 13 (pg. 262)

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Music for Meditation

Hark! The Voice of Love and Mercy (TH #259)

\*Closing Song – Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah  
(TH #598)

\*Doxology (TH #731)

\*Benediction

## Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us and for our salvation  
came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried;  
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of  
the Father;  
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living  
and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified;  
who spoke by the prophets;  
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;  
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;  
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Corporate Prayer of Confession

Lord, though you should guide us, we inform ourselves; though you should rule us, we control ourselves; though you should fulfill us, we console ourselves. We think your truth too high, your will too hard, your power too remote, your love too free. But they are not! And without them, we are of all people most miserable. Now heal our confused minds with your word, heal our divided wills with your law, heal our troubled consciences with your love, heal our anxious hearts with your presence, all for the sake of your Son, who loved us and gave himself for us. Amen.

## Food for Thought

"It could be assumed that it was to David's credit that he took some kind of responsibility when he heard Bathsheba's news. But there is no sign of repentance or acknowledgment of guilt in his actions. He simply sought to find a way of avoiding any consequences, either for Bathsheba, or more pertinently for himself. If Uriah could be brought home, then the world could be persuaded that the baby was his. It would have been a brilliant solution if it were not for the fact that Uriah took seriously his obligations to David, to his own men and to God and his law. There is a dark comedy in the way that the story is told. Even being made drunk did not make Uriah set aside his principles. David could take away Uriah's wife and even take away his life, but he did not have the power to take away his integrity. The contrast with David could not be more marked. Uriah the Hittite was a more faithful Israelite than David, Israel's king."

— Mary J. Evans, The Message of Samuel: Personalities, Potential, Politics, and Power