

Order of Worship for February 7, 2021

The Season of Epiphany

Prelude by Shirley Bergman

Welcome

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose voice is upon the waters,
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,
whose goodness cascades over all creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Holy God,

you search us and know us.

You are acquainted with all our ways.

**We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.**

**We turn inward, failing to follow
your outward way of love.**

We distrust those who are not like us.

**We exploit the earth and its resources
and fail to consider generations to come.**

Forgive us, gracious God,

for all we have done and left undone.

**Even before the words are on our tongues,
you know them;**

receive them in your divine mercy.

Amen.

How vast is God's grace!

Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus,
our sins are washed away

and we are claimed as God's own beloved.

Indeed, we are forgiven.

In the wake of God's forgiveness,

we are called to be the beloved community
living out Christ's justice
and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

Amen.

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.

KYRIE (spoken)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21-31

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

21Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

22It is the Lord who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
23who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

24Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

25To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

26Lift up your eyes on high and see:

Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

27Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?

28Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

29He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

30Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

31but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,

they shall walk and not faint.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

1Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!

How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

**2The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem,
and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

3The Lord heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.

**4The Lord counts the number of the stars
and calls them all by their names.**

5Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
there is no limit to God's wisdom.

**6The Lord lifts up the lowly,
but casts the wicked to the ground.**

7Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp to our God,

**8who covers the heavens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.**

9God provides food for the cattle
and for the young ravens when they cry.

**10God is not impressed by the might of a horse,
and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**

11but finds pleasure in those who fear the Lord,
in those who await God's steadfast love. Hallelujah!

PSALM SONG (video): "Yachal (Psalm 147)" by Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan

Chorus:

Yachal, Yachal We wait and hope

Yachal, Yachal We stay

Yachal, Yachal We trust your love

Oh, lai-dai-dai-dai...

Verse 1:

**Rebuilding from the ruins, gathering the beloved scattered
Healing all the broken hearts
Counting the stars, naming each one**

Verse 2:

**Sustaining all the needy, throwing evil to the ground
Sending gracious rain to the fields
Feeding the bear and the raven when they cry**

Verse 3:

**It's not the strength of horses, not the speed of the graceful athlete
It's the life lived in awe
It's the life lived in awe**

GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

29As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. 31He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

32That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. 33And the whole city was gathered around the door. 34And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

35In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. 36And Simon and his companions hunted for him. 37When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." 38He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." 39And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC by Shirley Bergman

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

New and returning council members are invited to stand if they are at in-person worship, or simply follow along if they are participating virtually.

The following people have been *elected* by the congregation to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these *sisters and brothers* will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

Beth Stanek
Sue Hoey
Shirley Bergman
Maureen Even
Christa Leach
Mike Waring
Sheila Collins

A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. *(1 Corinthians 12:4-7)*

You have been *elected* to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

The presiding minister addresses those being installed.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:

Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been *elected*?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

The assembly stands. Those being installed face the assembly. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your *elected* leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Those being installed face the presiding minister, who addresses them.

I now declare you installed as *council members* of this congregation.

Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

Let us pray for the church: for ministries of healing and wholeness, for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains, for those serving in prison ministry, for all who proclaim freedom and release in the name of Christ. Let us pray for congregations who are seeking to faithfully live out your mission during these difficult time. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for creation: for insects in the grass, clouds on the mountaintops, for cattle and the rainwater they drink, for the humility to take our place among all creatures of the earth. Let us pray for scientists who study your creation and advise us all in how best to care for it. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the nations: for all who lead in cities and towns, states and countries; for community organizers, school officials, and CEOs; for international health organizations, that in times of trial, fear, or hopelessness, they find freedom in service to those most in need, Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all wearied by life's burdens: for those who are poor, for those lacking supportive relationships, for those crushed by debt, for those struggling with chronic pain or other sickness, for those exhausted from overwork or stress, and for all who cry out to you, especially those struggling with the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for this congregation: for outreach and social ministries in which we participate; for parish nurses and visitors; for ministries of companionship and support, for the young people in this place who open us to new understandings, Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who have gone before us: In thanksgiving for the faithful departed, who were called by name and now rest from their labors, that their lives serve as witnesses to the goodness of God, Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, using waves or peace signs.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,

but guided us into the path of love and light.
In every age you sent prophets
to make known your loving will for all humanity.
The cry of the poor has become your own cry;
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.
In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant
to preach good news to the afflicted,
to break bread with the outcast and despised,
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.
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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we await the day when Jesus shall return
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.

Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen

Amen.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,
to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup
with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.

Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

Invitation to Communion

Friends of Jesus, receive nourishment for your journey. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Receive the body of Christ, given for you.
Receive the blood of Christ, shed for you.

All are invited to eat and drink the communion elements they have with them. If desired, individuals from the same household may serve each other.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Christ Jesus,
at this table we have feasted on your very life
and are strengthened for our journey.
Send us forth from this banquet
nourished in body and in spirit
to proclaim your good news
and serve others in your name.
Amen.

HYMN VIDEO: Son of God Eternal Savior

1 **Son of God, eternal Savior,
source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among
us
hallows all our human race,
you our head, who, throned in glory,
for your own will ever plead:
fill us with your love and pity,
heal our wrong, and help our need.**

2 **As you, Lord, have lived for others,
so may we for others live.
Freely have your gifts been granted;
freely may your servants give.
Yours the gold and yours the silver,
yours the wealth of land and sea;
we but stewards of your bounty
held in solemn trust will be.**

3 **Come, O Christ, and reign among us,
King of love and Prince of peace;
hush the storm of strife and passion,
bid its cruel discords cease.
By your patient years of toiling,
by your silent hours of pain,
quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,
stem our selfish greed of gain.**

4 **Son of God, eternal Savior,
source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among
us
hallows all our human race:
by your praying, by your willing
that your people should be one,
grant, oh, grant our hope's fruition:
here on earth your will be done.**

BLESSING

God the creator strengthen you;
Jesus the beloved fill you;
and the Holy Spirit the comforter \mp keep you in peace.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Postlude by Shirley Bergman

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BY THE NUMBERS

Check Register Balance 1/31/2020

\$13,102.66

Operating Bank Loan: \$4,092.27

PPP Loan Balance:\$16,984 (Forgiven)

Offering:01/31/2021

Current: \$1,542

Benevolence: \$182

Improvement: \$85

Memorial: \$40

Debt Reduction: \$20

Live Stream Volunteers Needed: The technology committee is searching for helpers to learn and run live streaming during worship. No experience with live streaming necessary, just a general knowledge of Apple products and general principles of shooting video from a mobile device. Will teach specifics. This is perfect for some of our younger members to get involved! If you or a member of your family are interested, please reach out to Sara Borland at sborland74@gmail.com or text 319-230-8223. We cannot provide this service without additional help!

Ash Wednesday/Lent services— Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 17, we will have Wednesday evening Lenten services at 7pm. They will be both in person with Covid precautions (masks, distancing, no singing), and live-streamed on our Facebook page.