

EPIPHANY 4 SUNDAY

January 30, 2022

Organ Prelude: You thirsty ones! Come to the spring! William Gardiner; arr. B. Nasmith

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

“Answer me when I call, O God of my right!... Be gracious to me and hear my prayer.”
(Ps. 4:1)

“Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart.” (Luke 18:1)

We gather for worship as those who pray. We gather for worship as those who also, sometimes, lose heart.

The struggles and challenges of life, the setbacks and disappointments, the illnesses and the losses, the injustices and the unfairness we see all around us, provide good reason for us to lose heart.

How can prayer make a difference, O God? Why continue to put our energy into a practice that we're not sure works? If we are honest we sometimes question whether you are there, O God, whether you exist and whether you listen.

If you do not control what happens, O God, what difference can you make in our lives and our world through the vehicle of our praying?

May this worship service help us rediscover the power and efficacy of prayer, O God. Speak to us; we are listening!

Hymn: I'm gonna live so God can use me

No. 648

1. I'm gonna live so
God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so
God can use me anywhere,
Lord, anytime!

2. I'm gonna work so
God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so
God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

3. I'm gonna pray so
God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so
God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

4. I'm gonna sing so
God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so
God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

Prayer of Approach, Confession & The Lord's Prayer

**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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Peace of Christ be with you all;
And also with you.

Children's Theme

Special Music: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet

soloist Joanne Nasmith

Amy Grant

Scripture Readings: Psalm 4, Luke 18: 1-8

Psalm 4

¹ Answer me when I call, O God of my right!
You gave me room when I was in distress.
Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

² How long, you people, shall my honour suffer shame?
How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?

³ But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for God's self;
the LORD hears when I call.

⁴ When you are disturbed, do not sin;
ponder it on your beds, and be silent.

⁵ Offer right sacrifices,
and put your trust in the LORD.

⁶ There are many who say, ‘O that we might see some good!

Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!’

⁷ You have put gladness in my heart

more than when their grain and wine abound.

⁸ I will both lie down and sleep in peace;

for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety. Amen.

Luke 18: 1-8

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ²He said, ‘In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, “Grant me justice against my opponent.” ⁴For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, “Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.”’ ⁶And the Lord said, ‘Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?’

We are listening, O God;

Speak to us!

Sermon:

FAITH, PRAYER, PERSISTENCE

Dr. Harris

Special Music: The Prayer

C. B. Sager and David Foster

soloists Anna Bateman & Elias Theocharidis

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

Hymn: What a friend we have in Jesus

No. 746

1. What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear;
what a privilege to carry
every thing to God in prayer.
Oh what peace we often forfeit,
oh what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.

2. Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged:
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness:
take it to the Lord in prayer.

3. Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge:
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
in his arms he'll take and shield thee;
thou wilt find a solace there.

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ postlude: Pray for the wilderness / Christ's is the world

arr. B. Nasmith

Ministers

Ministers-in Association

Minister Emeritus

Clerk of Session

Administrator & Manager of Community Engagement

Music Director

Parish Nurse Assistant

The Rev. Dr. Harris Athanasiadis, hathan1964@hotmail.com

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The Rev. Dr. Carol Loudon, The Rev. Deb Stanbury

The Rev. Dr. Pam McCarroll & The Rev. Rodger Talbot

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"Discover the vitality of faith"