

# EPIPHANY 7 SUNDAY

## February 20, 2022

Piano Prelude: Clair de lune

Claude Debussy

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

### CALL TO WORSHIP:

We come to church as those who often struggle to hold on to faith.

**There are things that happen in our lives and things we see in the world that make us doubt.**

We take the time to pray, but sometimes we also wonder whether our prayers are being heard and whether praying can truly make a difference.

**We pray for people and situations and wonder whether the energy of heart and love we put into our praying gets transferred through the Holy Spirit onto those people and situations.**

Can prayer make a concrete difference? Can it truly heal? Can our faith “move mountains” so to speak in our lives and our relationships?

**We are listening, O God; Speak to us as we worship you this hour!**

Hymn: All creatures of our God and King (vs. 1, 4, 5, 6)

No. 433

1. All creatures of our God and King  
lift up your voice and with us sing:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
O brother sun with golden beam,  
O sister moon with silver gleam,  
sing praises, sing praises,  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

4. Dear mother earth, who day by day  
brings forth your blessings on our way:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
All flowers and fruit that in you grow,  
let them God's glory also show:  
sing praises, sing praises,  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

5. Let everyone of tender heart,  
forgiving others, take their part:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
All who long pain and sorrow bear,  
give God your burdens and your care:  
sing praises, sing praises,  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

6. Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship God in humbleness:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three-in-One:  
sing praises, sing praises,  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

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: A Mighty Fortress is our God

Martin Luther; harmony by J. S. Bach

Scripture Readings: Mark 9: 14-29; Matthew 17: 14-21

Mark 9: 14-29

14 When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and some scribes arguing with them. 15 When the whole crowd saw him, they were immediately overcome with awe, and they ran forward to greet him. 16 He asked them, 'What are you arguing about with them?' 17 Someone from the crowd answered him, 'Teacher, I brought you my son; he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak; 18 and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they could not do so.' 19 He answered them, 'You faithless generation, how much longer must I be among you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to me.' 20 And they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, immediately it threw the boy into convulsions, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. 21 Jesus asked the father, 'How long has this been happening to him?' And he said, 'From childhood. 22 It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us.' 23 Jesus said to him, 'If you are able!—All things can be done for the one who believes.' 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out, 'I believe; help my unbelief!' 25 When Jesus saw that a crowd came running

together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, 'You spirit that keep this boy from speaking and hearing, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!'  
26After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, 'He is dead.' 27But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand. 28When he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, 'Why could we not cast it out?' 29He said to them, 'This kind can come out only through prayer.' Amen.

Matthew 17: 14-21

14 When they came to the crowd, a man came to him, knelt before him, 15and said, 'Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; he often falls into the fire and often into the water. 16And I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him.' 17Jesus answered, 'You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him here to me.' 18And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. 19Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, 'Why could we not cast it out?' 20He said to them, 'Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, "Move from here to there", and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.' Amen.

We are listening, O God;  
**Speak to us!**

Sermon: PRAYERS OF PASTORAL CONCERN

Dr. Harris

Special Music: Because we believe

David Foster

*soloist Elias Theocharidis*

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

Hymn: Will you come and follow me

No. 634

1. Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown;  
will you let my name be known;  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?

2. Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer  
in you and you in me?

3. Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free  
and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean  
and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean  
in you and you in me?

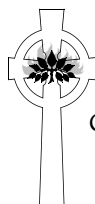
4. Will you love the “you” you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you’ve found  
to reshape the world around  
through my sight and touch and sound  
in you and you in me?  
when you but call my name.  
Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude: A Mighty Fortress is our God

5. Lord, your summons echoes true  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I’ll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I’ll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.

Johann Walther



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*“Discover the vitality of faith”*