



Riverside Congregational Church

January 16, 2022

2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Call to Worship

One: Our Mother-Father God has made us to be One Body with many members.

Many: United and uniting. This is our calling.

One: God calls us to share our diverse gifts activated by the one and same Spirit.

Many: United and uniting. This is our calling.

One: God longs for us to be united in love and to manifest the Spirit in our different ways.

Call to Worship

Many: United and uniting. This is our calling United and uniting. This is our worship.

All: Let us gather in this hour to offer praise and worship to our Holy God, who challenges us and calls us to create the Beloved Community

Prayer of Invocation

O God, all people are your Beloved,
across races, nationalities, religions, sexual orientations
and all the ways we are distinctive from one another.

We are all manifestations of your image.

We are bound together in an inescapable network of mutuality
and tied to a single garment of destiny.

You call us into your unending work
of justice, peace and love.

Prayer of Invocation

Let us know your presence among us now:

Let us delight in our diversity that offers glimpses of the mosaic of your beauty.

Strengthen us with your steadfast love and transform our despairing fatigue into hope-filled action.

Under the shadow of your wings in this hour may we find rest and strength, renewal and hope.

We ask this, inspired by the example of your disciples and in Jesus' name. Amen.

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light #248

I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus,

God set the stars

to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.



I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light #248

I want to see the brightness of God.

I want to look at Jesus.

Clear sun of righteousness,

shine on my path,

and show me

the way to Eternal

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.



I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light #248

I'm looking for the coming of Christ,

I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run

with patience the race,

we shall know the joy of Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.



Prayer of Confession

O God, we long to co-create with you the Beloved Community which looks to the common good; privileges all equally, and creates societal systems which celebrate the humanity and the gifts of all. And yet we focus on our differences, envy each other's gifts, devalue manifestations of you, O God, that are not like our own.

Perhaps our sin is a slow wait for justice:

We allow the voices of brothers and sisters who do not look like us, love like us, or worship like us to be silenced. We have told them to wait for freedom, justice and equality. We foster in them a denigrating sense of nobodiness.

Many: Lord, have mercy.

Prayer of Confession

Or perhaps we have kept silence ourselves in the face of their struggle for full human life. For it is not solely hateful words and actions, but also appalling silence that follows the path of oppression.

Many: Christ, have mercy.

Perhaps our sin is to give in to weariness, discouragement, bitterness:

You have called us to be drum majors for justice, peace and righteousness, Yet the work of peace and justice overwhelms us at times, to build with God the Beloved Community seems impossible, and we grow weary. We cry, "Peace, peace," but there is no peace within us or around us. We find ourselves on the path of hatred and oppression, violence and war.

Many: Lord, have mercy.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Sisters and brothers, God is at work in us and with us!

God has promised: “I will not keep silent and I will not rest until the vindication of my beloved people shines out like the dawn and their salvation like a burning torch. My people shall no more be termed ‘forsaken’ and their land shall no more be termed ‘desolate.’”

We remember that you have given your Beloved people a new name: “My delight is in them.”

**Many: Thank you, God for delighting in us even now,
for forgiving us our slow action, our silence and our weariness,
for empowering our work and inviting us once again to create with
you the Beloved Community you long for.**

Passing the Peace

Christ offers peace to all who will accept it. Share the love of God and encourage one another with hope as you greet one another in faith:

One: May the Peace of Christ be with you!

Many And also with you!

John 2:1-11 (The Message)

Three days later there was a wedding in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there. Jesus and his disciples were guests also. When they started running low on wine at the wedding banquet, Jesus' mother told him, "They're just about out of wine."

Jesus said, "Is that any of our business, Mother—yours or mine? This isn't my time. Don't push me."

She went ahead anyway, telling the servants, "Whatever he tells you, do it."

Six stoneware water pots were there, used by the Jews for ritual washings. Each held twenty to thirty gallons.

John 2:1-11 (The Message)

Jesus ordered the servants, “Fill the pots with water.” And they filled them to the brim. “Now fill your pitchers and take them to the host,” Jesus said, and they did.

When the host tasted the water that had become wine (he didn't know what had just happened but the servants, of course, knew), he called out to the bridegroom, “Everybody I know begins with their finest wines and after the guests have had their fill brings in the cheap stuff. But you've saved the best till now!”

This act in Cana of Galilee was the first sign Jesus gave, the first glimpse of his glory. And his disciples believed in him.



Sermon

“Just a Glimpse”

Rev Bob Nolan

Trust and Obey (#443)

When we walk with the Lord
in the light of his Word,
what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will,
he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.



Trust and Obey (#443)

Not a burden we bear,
not a sorrow we share,
but our toil he will richly repay;
not a grief nor a loss,
not a frown nor a cross,
but is blest if we trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey



Trust and Obey (#443)

But we never can prove
the delights of his love
until all on the altar we lay;
for the favor he shows
and the joy he bestows
are for them who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey



Trust and Obey (#443)

Then in fellowship sweet
we will sit at his feet,
or we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do,
where he sends we will go--
never fear, only trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey





Pastoral Prayer

Rev Bob Nolan

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom and the power, and the glory;

Forever and ever. Amen!



Call To Offering

“Give Thanks” (#359)

Give thanks, with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son
And now let the weak say, “I am strong,”
let the poor say, “I am rich,”
because of what the Lord had done for us
Give thanks!



Jesus, Come, for We Invite You (#669)

Jesus, come, for we invite you,
guest and master, friend and Lord;
now, as once at Cana's wedding,
speak, and let us hear your word:
lead us through our need or doubting,
hope be born and joy restored.



Jesus, Come, for We Invite You (#669)

Jesus, come! transform our pleasures,
guide us into paths unknown;
bring your gifts, command your servants,
let us trust in you alone:
though your hand may work in secret,
all shall see what you have done.



Jesus, Come, for We Invite You (#669)

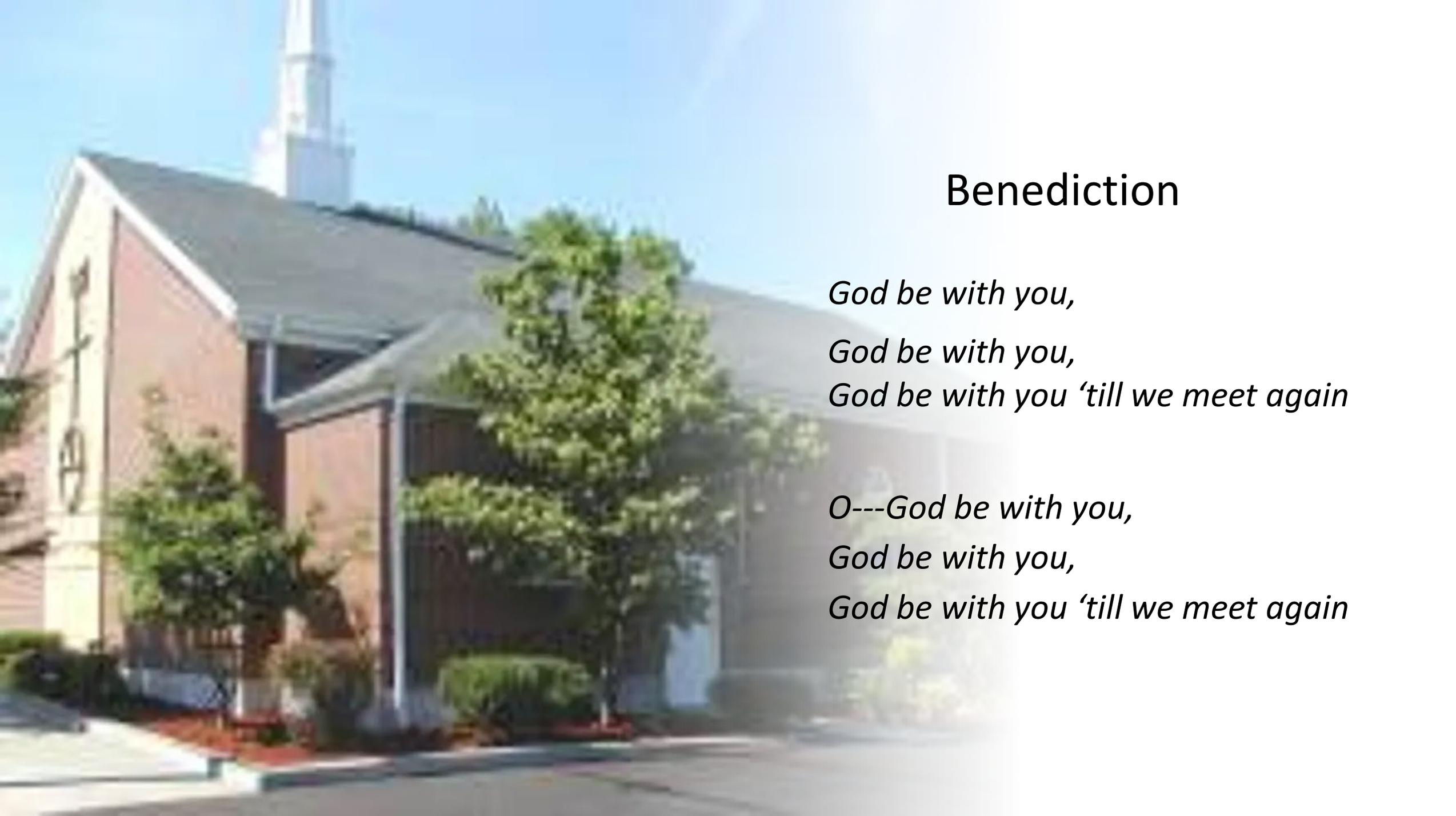
Jesus, come in new creation,
heaven brought near by power divine;
give your unexpected glory,
changing water into wine:
rouse the faith of your disciples--
come, our first and greatest Sign!



Jesus, Come, for We Invite You (#669)

Jesus, come! surprise our dullness;
make us willing to receive
more than we can yet imagine,
all the best you have to give:
let us find your hidden riches,
taste your love, believe, and live!





Benediction

God be with you,

God be with you,

God be with you 'till we meet again

O---God be with you,

God be with you,

God be with you 'till we meet again