



OLYMPIA FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
January 17, 2021 • Second Sunday after Epiphany

Prelude

Dr. Jonathan Spatola-Knoll

Welcome & Announcements

Virtual Check-In

Video Call-to-Worship

MLK's Prayer of the Church

The Work of the People

Responsive Call-to-Gather

Leader: Your love, O God, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies

People: Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep

Leader: Earth's children, high and low, take refuge in the shadow of your wings

People: We feast on the abundance of your house; you give us drink from your river of delights

Unison: For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

Glory be to you, O God, our life and our light!

Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy

#2

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee, which wert & art and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hides Thee, though the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see,

Only Thou art holy; there is none before Thee, Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All Thy works shall praise

Thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea;

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity

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Invocation

God of light that shines through all creation, your word has called us back into your light. May you shine through our lives, we pray, making us your children and helping us bear witness to the light that dwells among us; through Christ, our Way, our Truth, and our Light. Amen

Written Word

I Samuel 3:1-10

The Message

The boy Samuel was serving God under Eli's direction. This was at a time when the revelation of God was rarely heard or seen. One night Eli was sound asleep (his eyesight was very bad – he could hardly see). It was well before dawn; the sanctuary lamp was still burning. Samuel was still in bed in the Temple of God, where the Chest of God rested.

Then God called out, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Yes? I'm here." Then he ran to Eli saying, "I heard you call. Here I am." Eli said, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed." And so he did. God called again, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, "I heard you call. Here I am." Again, Eli said, "Son, I didn't call you. Go back to bed." (This all happened before Samuel knew God for himself. It was before the revelation of God had been given to him personally.)

God called again, "Samuel!"—the third time! Yet again, Samuel got up and went to Eli, "Yes? I heard you call me. Here I am." That's when it dawned on Eli that God was calling the boy. So Eli directed Samuel, "Go back and lie down. If the voice calls again, say, "Speak, God. I'm your servant, ready to listen." Samuel returned to his bed. Then God came and stood before him exactly as before, calling out, "Samuel! Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak, I'm your servant, ready to listen."

Mission Moment

Here I am, Send Me

Stewardship

Tithes & Offerings

Song

Here I am, Lord

Darrell Born

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
Here I am Lord, is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me; I will hold your people in my heart.
I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne, my people's pain.
I have wept of love for them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak my word to them, whom shall I send?

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Song (continued)

Here I am, Lord

Darrell Born

Here I am Lord, is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me; I will hold your people in my heart.
I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide, till their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them, whom will I send?
Here I am Lord, is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me; I will hold your people in my heart.

On the Occasion of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday

Reader 1: Miriam hid a baby in the bulrushes, disobeying Pharaoh's edict to kill the male children of the Hebrew slaves. The child grew to adulthood. Called by God, he liberated his people from Pharaoh's bondage – and Miriam sang a freedom song!

Reader 2: Jonah, called by God to preach repentance to his enemies in Nineveh, resisted. He fled from Nineveh in a storm-tossed ship. Rescued from the depths of the sea, he returned to the enemy city, preached and witnessed the Ninevites' salvation when they turned to God.

Reader 1: Mary, the mother of Jesus, accepted her call from God with rejoicing, saying, "God has filled the hungry with good food and sent the rich away empty."

Reader 2: Paul, the apostle, journeyed over the known world founding Christian communities. Called by God, he preached reconciliation to Jew and Gentile, creating controversy among his colleagues as he pursued God's purpose of peace among estranged people.

Reader 1: The women with the banners and petitions were called suffragettes. They wanted peace among men and women and peace based on justice between races. Called by God, they struggled seventy years to win the right to votes in the United States so that their granddaughters could take up the work they had begun.

Reader 2: Black and white marched together in Alabama, Mississippi, Chicago, and Washington D.C., called by God to turn the nation around. Martin Luther King was our drum major keeping rhythm as we walked toward a new day when liberty and justice would be shared in peace by all.

Reader 1: The march continues, as we raise our voices with women, children, the poor, and every discriminated and disadvantage group, in every corner of God's world, crying out for a just peace.

Reader 2: Christ, our peace: we hear your call; we experience your ministry through the lives of peacemakers and justice seekers. Guide us as we follow the path of shalom. We thank you for the cloud of witnesses who have known your presence in their struggles every step of the way of peace. Your promise is sure that peace is possible when we follow in the way you lead. Amen

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Song

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Darrell Born

Lift ev'ry voice and sing, 'Til earth and heaven ring, Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the list'ning skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on 'til victory is won.
Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet; Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a-way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, 'til now we stand at last, where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

ENTERING GOD'S STORY

The Written Word

Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18

The Message

God, investigate my life; get all the facts firsthand. I'm an open book to you; even from a distance, you know what I'm thinking. You know when I leave and when I get back; I'm never out of your sight. You know everything I'm going to say before I start the first sentence. I look behind me and you're there, then up ahead and you're there too – your reassuring presence, coming and going.

This is too much, too wonderful – I can't take it all in!

Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother's womb. I thank you, High God – you're breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made! I worship in adoration – what a creation! You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body; You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something. Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth; all the stages of my life were spread out before you, the days of my life all prepared before I'd even lived one day. Your thoughts – how rare, how beautiful! God, I'll never comprehend them. I couldn't even begin to count them – any more than I could count the sand of the sea. Oh, let me rise in the morning and live always with you!

The Spoken Word

Annual Check-up!

Rev. Mark Rambo

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Song

Come into God's Presence

#34

Come into God's presence singing Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Come into God's presence singing Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord.
Praise the Lord together singing Worthy the Lamb, worthy the Lamb, worthy the Lamb.
Praise the Lord together signing Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Mark Rambo

Almighty God, ruler of this land and all others,
We come to you with heavy hearts, frustrated by the ongoing division and strife we see in this land.
We confess that we have not always been people of peace and have too often been complicit in dividing and not uniting. We humbly repent and ask for your truth and guidance.
God of mercy and grace, we ask that you heal this land. Heal the divisions of ideology, race, political party, economy, and every other thing that we have allowed to tear us apart.
Restore to us the unity of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
God of all wisdom and truth, grant to our leaders the courage to lead in uncertain times, the strength to combat all falsehood, and the grace to forgive all else. May all who serve this country do so with dignity and respect, recognizing the inherent image of God in all people, regardless of our many differences.
God of beauty and strength, may your guiding principles be the light that illuminates our lives so that each of us may live out your truth in our communities as we seek to be agents of accountability and reconciliation. Work in us and through us so we might be an example to those around us.
Almighty God, through the power of your Holy Spirit, grant your peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of this world, and our Savior. Amen.

Invitation

Hymn

Living for Jesus

#413, v. 1, 3, 4

Living for Jesus a life that is true, striving to please Him in all that I do;
yielding allegiance, glad-hearted and free, this is the pathway of blessing for me.
O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to Thee, For Thou, in Thy atonement,
didst give Thyself for me; I own no other Master, my heart shall be Thy throne;
My life I give, hence-forth to live, O Christ, for Thee alone.
Living for Jesus wherever I am, doing each duty in His holy name;
Willing to suffer, affliction and loss, deeming each trial a part of my cross.

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Hymn (continued)

Living for Jesus

#413, v. 1, 3, 4

O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to Thee, For Thou, in Thy atonement,
didst give Thyself for me; I own no other Master, my heart shall be Thy throne;
My life I give, hence-forth to live, O Christ, for Thee alone.
Living for Jesus through earth's little while, my dearest treasure, the light of His smile;
Seeking the lost ones He died to redeem, bringing the weary to find rest in Him.
O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to Thee, For Thou, in Thy atonement,
didst give Thyself for me; I own no other Master, my heart shall be Thy throne;
My life I give, hence-forth to live, O Christ, for Thee alone.

Weekly Challenge

Postlude

Dr. Jonathan Spatola-Knoll

Benediction

Walk Humbly • Love Completely • Live Differently