

Sunday, February 17, 2019 - Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

The Light of a Star guided the Wise Ones on their journey to find the infant king, the Light of the World. “Eventually the three [Wise Ones] met on the road to Bethlehem. They were strangers to each other of course, but under the star, they soon became friends.”

That star is a symbol of God: proclaiming love for the world, guiding the seekers, providing light to travel through the night. Wherever we are in the world, we have the stars, the same stars. Whether walking or running, on a ship or even flying from one part of the world to another the stars are always with us - a piece of home in a new place - as everpresent as God’s love for those who are on the move.

Bells ring at 10 am.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening HYMN #423 Shall We Gather at the River

Shall We Gather at the River



- 1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
- 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
- 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
- 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

GREETING

Opening Prayer

O Great Healer, you bless all strugglers who face adversity. May we learn to bless as you bless and challenge as you challenge. Amen.

Worship Assistant: Jeremiah 17:5-10

It is a blessing to trust in God. According to Jeremiah, both those who trust in mortals, and those who trust in God will experience drought and parched places in their lives. Those who trust in God, however, have a never-ending stream that will provide water even when the rains don't come.

⁵Thus says the LORD:
Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.
⁶They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.
They shall live in the parched places of the
wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.
⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?
¹⁰I the LORD test the mind
and search the heart,

to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

Worship Assistant: Trusting God will allow us to thrive when life is dry, or when we are lost in the wilderness. God understands that the human heart is complicated, and yet God knows our minds and our hearts. How wonderful to trust in a divine being who knows us inside and out!

Hymn: Down by the Riverside -

I'm gonna lay down my sword and shield
Down by the riverside
Down by the riverside
Down by the riverside
I'm gonna lay down my sword and shield
Down by the riverside
I'm ain't gonna study war no more

I ain't gonna study war no more
Ain't gonna study war no more
I ain't gonna study war no more
I ain't gonna study war no more
Ain't gonna study war no more
I ain't gonna study war no more

I'm gonna lay down my heavy load
Down by the riverside
Down by the riverside
Down by the riverside

I'm gonna lay down my heavy load
Down by the riverside
I ain't gonna study war no more

I ain't gonna study war no more
Ain't gonna study war no more
I ain't gonna study war no more
I ain't gonna study war no more
Ain't gonna study war no more
I ain't gonna study war no more

Psalm 1

This psalm celebrates the gift of God's Torah (literally 'instruction'). Torah is God's law, which was given to the Israelites to teach them

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the
counsel | of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the
seats | of the scornful!

**²Their delight is in the law | of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching | day
and night. R**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that | do not
wither;

everything they | do shall prosper.

**⁴It is not so | with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind | blows
away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright
when | judgment comes,

nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.
**⁶For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall | be
destroyed. R**

Worship Assistant: When we study Torah, we are given a wealth of knowledge about justice, and given the tools to build a rich and full life for ourselves and for others. Like trees planted by the streams, Torah provides ongoing refreshment and allows us to bear fruit.

Duet: I'm Using My Bible for a Roadmap

Worship Assistant: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

This passage is addressed to those who have trouble believing in the resurrection. The idea of resurrection was a stumbling block for some of the new believers in the Corinthian community, and Paul is defending this distinctly Christian claim. The resurrection cannot be proven – it can only be hoped for. If God was able to raise up Jesus Christ, so he will be able to raise the bodies of believers from the dead.

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we

testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Worship Assistant: The hope of resurrection is enough to sustain us. Our hope in God's miraculous ability breaks into the present, allowing us to live joyfully even in the midst of struggle and doubt.

Gospel Luke 6:17-26

Jesus stood with a great crowd of travelers who had come from near and far in search of healing. He healed everyone, and then he had a private word for his disciples. The text says he looked at them – he sees them! He sees their needs and fears and desires.

¹⁷[Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said:
“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.
²¹“Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.
“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.
²²“Blessed are you when people hate you, and
when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you
on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice in that day
and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in
heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the
prophets.
²⁴“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.
²⁵“Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.
“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.
²⁶“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is
what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

Sermon

**Hymn of the Day: He's Got the Whole World in his
Hands**

He's Got the Whole World in His Hand



1. He's got the whole world
 2. He's got the sun and the moon
 3. He's got the wind and the rain
 4. He's got the lit - tle bit - ty ba - by
 5. He's got you and me, broth - er,



in his hand, He's got the whole world
 in his hand, He's got the sun and the moon
 in his hand, He's got the wind and the rain
 in his hand, He's got the lit - tle bit - ty ba - by
 in his hand, He's got you and me, sis - ter,



in his hand, He's got the whole world
 in his hand, He's got the sun and the moon
 in his hand, He's got the wind and the rain
 in his hand, He's got the lit - tle bit - ty ba - by
 in his hand, He's got ev - 'ry - bod - y here



in his hand, He's got the whole world in his hand.

Text: Traditional
 Tune: WHOLE WORLD, Irregular; Negro Spiritual; arr. by Hezekiah Brinson, Jr., b.1958, © 1990

P. 217 APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS

Almighty God, you challenge the status quo. You challenge the comforts and privileges for some while others are in need. May we answer the call to be part of your liberating work for all people.

Holy One, we hope and pray for a world in which the rights and dignity of all people are seen as equal. Nourish and sustain us as we work toward this vision of equity and justice.

God of Resurrection, your promise of eternal life is a promise of life lived to the fullest here and now. Transform us into agents of change who strive to make life for migrant workers more just and equitable. **Amen.**

OFFERING

DUET: Keep on the Sunny Side

Offertory

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD (ELW p. 220)

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **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.**

BLESSING

SHARING THE PEACE AND DISMISSAL (ELW p. 222)

Go in peace, sharing Christ's peace with all you meet.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN #290 GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Go Tell It on the Mountain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL & POSTLUDE

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