

Musical Prelude: Deep River *by Mose Hogan performed by Nancy Quinn*

Lighting the Christ Candle: *Candle lighter Glen Baskerville*

The candle we light is a symbol of God's presence in the midst of us.
New life comes upon us in a moment of time.
It is so that God's reign begins.
We long for it but it comes
when we are not looking.
The light that flows from God
keeps all our hopes alive.

Anthem: Jesus Christ the Apple Tree *Elizabeth Poston Norman Abbott Performed by Nancy Quinn*

Children's Time: Jesus Heals – Ashley Barran

Call to Worship:

The God of Epiphany is revealed not only in the heavens above but in the earth below. Jesus has come into our world, into our very lives. He comes into our homes with a healing presence. Let us worship the One who comes in power and love, in concern and compassion for the sick and the suffering.

Opening Prayer:

Holy God, our minds are narrow, our mouths are shut, and our eyes are closed. Wake us up to Your presence among us. Reveal Yourself to us in this season of openness and new life. Show us a vision beyond ourselves. May the good You have planted in us take root that we may grow to be like those who seek light amid this world's darkness. We pray this in the Name of Jesus. AMEN

Hymn VU # 79: Arise, Your Light Is Come

1 Arise your light has come!
The spirits called obey,
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.

2 Arise your light has come!
Fling wide the prison door,
proclaimed with the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.

3 Arise your light has come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken-hearted ones and
comfort those who mourn.

4 Arise your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing,
Gods power will make us strong.

Prayer of Confession:

Transform us, living God. Free us from the slavish attitudes that have ensnared us. The powers of this world have taken hold of us and we are no longer able to sense Your presence. We are blinded by the seductions that continue to fill our lives. We chase after dreams that bring only emptiness. Lost in the shadows, we need You to find us. Reform and reshape us in our brokenness. Confront us in our aloneness that we may be restored to Your community of wholeness. AMEN

Assurance of Pardon:

The God of grace has heard our cry. The Creator will never turn a deaf ear to all who weep in the night of their misery. Know that the love of God will find us today right where we are. We are glad and rejoice in this good news.

Hymn VU # 574 Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love

1 Come let us sing of a wonderful love,
tender and true, tender and true,
out of the heart of the Father above,
streaming to me and to you:
wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

2 Jesus, the Saviour, this gospel to tell,
joyfully came, joyfully came,
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,
sharing their sorrow and shame,
seeking the lost, seeking the lost,
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.

3 Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;
why do they roam? why do they roam?
Love only waits to forgive and forget;
home, weary wanderers, home!
Wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

4 Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love!
Come and abide, come and abide,
lifting my life till it rises above
envy and falsehood and pride:
seeking to be, seeking to be
lowly and humble, a learner of thee

The Word:

Isaiah 40: 21-31

21 Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in;

23 who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

25 To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

26 Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,

‘My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God’?

28 Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

29 He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless.

30 Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;

31 but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,

they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

Psalm 147 - Praise for God's Care for Jerusalem *read by Glen Baskerville*

- 1 Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.
- 2 The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.
- 3 He heals the broken-hearted, and binds up their wounds.
- 4 He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.
- 5 Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.
- 6 The Lord lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground.
- 7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.
- 8 He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills.
- 9 He gives to the animals their food, and to the young ravens when they cry.
- 10 His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;
- 11 but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.
- 20c they do not know his ordinances. Praise the Lord!

Mark 1: 21-39

21 They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.' ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' ²⁶And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, 'What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.' ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee. 29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30 Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. 31 He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. 32 That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. 33 And the whole city was gathered around the door. 34 And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. 35 In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. 36 And Simon and his companions hunted for him. 37 When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' 38 He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' 39 And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Message: "The vision is enacted." **Rev. Keith Rameshwar**

Hymn VU # 567 Will You Come and Follow Me

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 and 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 use the faith you found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

5 Christ your summons echoes true when you but Call My Name
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.

The Response:

Offering:

We lift our voices
We lift our hands
We lift our lives up to You
We are an offering

Lord use our voices
Lord use our hands
Lord use our lives they are Yours
We are an offering

All that we have
All that we are
All that we hope to be
We give to You
We give to You

Offertory Prayer:

Great Giver of every gift, we offer ourselves with joyful hearts. May what we bring today embody the hope of healing to the sick, comfort to the lonely and justice to the oppressed. AMEN

Prayers of the People:

Lord's Prayer:

Hymn VU # 678 For the Healing of the Nations

1 For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord,
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

2 Lead us forward into freedom;
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

3 All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race, or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.

4 You, Creator God, have written
your great name on humankind.
For our growing in your likeness,
bring the life of Christ to mind
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

Commissioning:

Blessing:

Musical Postlude: Day by Day *Faye Lopez, Oscar Ahnfelt*