

Sunday January 19, 2025
Second Sunday after Epiphany

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Let All Things Now Living" Traditional Welsh Melody ("Ash Grove") Arr. Cindy Berry

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation

Lighting the Christ Candle

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

Isaiah 9:2

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Call to Worship Written by Sue Webb. **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2024/2025, page 46. Used with permission.

Come, let us gather together in expectation.

We come hoping to find Jesus in our midst.

The one who opens our hearts

and helps us discover God.

The one who calls us to faith

and reminds us of God's love.

The one who delights in surprising his people,

a giver of good gifts,

turning water into wine,

giving hope when our hope has run out.

Come, let us gather together in expectation.

We come searching for Jesus in our midst.

Hymn VU 374 "Come and Find the Quiet Centre" Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1989.

Music: attributed to Benjamin Franklin White, 1844. Harmonized Ronald A. Nelson, 1978.

Words © 1992 Hope Publishing Co. Harmony © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship

CCLI 11438349

Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for faith to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter, be at peace and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

Opening Prayer (*unison*) (*adapted from a prayer by Janice Maclean @ prayerbench.ca*)

Your love, O God, is astounding: extravagant, boundless, unconditional, never-ending, available to all. Your love, O God, dwells in willing hearts. Yet our love is not your love; our hearts are not your heart. There were times this week when our hearts were hardened and we didn't share, when we turned away and didn't show compassion, when we spoke in haste and weren't very kind. Forgive us God. Break open our hardened hearts and fill them once again with Your love. Help us be attentive to opportunities all around us, help us notice what life is offering right here, right now. Abundant goodness. Abundant blessing. Abundant joy. Amen.

Ministry of Music:

A New Creed VU 918

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn VU 331 "The Church's One Foundation" Words: Samuel John Stone, 1866.

Adapt. Lawrence Hull Stookey, 1983. Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864.

Adaptation © 1983 The United Methodist Publishing House.

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The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are his new creation by water and the Word;
from heaven he came and sought us that we might ever be
his living servant people, by his own death set free.

Called forth from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
one charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name professing and at one table fed,
to one hope always pressing, by Christ's own Spirit led.

Though with a scornful wonder the world sees us oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"
But soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious our longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

We now on earth have union with God the Three in One,
and share through faith communion with those whose rest is won.
Oh, happy ones, and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

We Open Ourselves to Receive God's Blessings

Responsive Reading: Psalm 36 VU 762

Your steadfast love, O God, extends to the heavens.

Your steadfast love, O God, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

**Your righteousness is like the mountains, O God,
your judgments are like the great deep;
all living things you save.**

Your steadfast love, O God, extends to the heavens.

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

**They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

Your steadfast love, O God, extends to the heavens.

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

**Continue your steadfast love to those who know you,
and your salvation to the upright in heart.**

Your steadfast love, O God, extends to the heavens.

Scripture: John 2:1-11 The Wedding at Cana

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet." So they took it. When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

*The other readings for this week are: **Isaiah 62:1-5, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11***

Meditation: "Extravagance"

Hymn VU 519 "Sing to the Lord of Harvest" Words: John Samuel Bewley Monsell, 1866.

Music: Johann Steurlein, 1575. Harmonized: Healey Willan, 1958.

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Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise,
with joyful hearts and voices your hallelujahs raise;
by whom the rolling seasons in fruitful order move;
sing to the Lord of harvest a joyful song of love.

God makes the clouds drop fatness, the deserts bloom and spring,
the hills leap up in gladness, the valleys laugh and sing.
God fills them all with fullness, all things with large increase,
and crowns the year with goodness, with plenty and with peace.

Bring to this sacred altar all things God's goodness gave,
the golden sheaves of harvest, the souls Christ died to save:
your hearts lay down before him when at his feet you fall,
and with your lives adore him who gave his life for all.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

Music and laughter, hands and minds, curiosity and compassion: what an abundance of gifts we have! All these gifts are symbolized in our offering. Let us commit ourselves in service as we worship God with our offering. Our tithes and offerings will be received.

Offertory Hymn VU 81 “As with Gladness Men of Old” **vs. 3** Words: William Chatterton Dix, ca. 1858.

Music: Conrad Kocher, 1838. Adapted William H. Monk, 1861.

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As they offered gifts most rare at that manger crude and bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin’s alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you, our heavenly King.

Prayer of Dedication

Jesus, in Cana you turned the water into wine. Turn these offerings into food and drink for the hungry, clothing for the naked, shelter for the homeless, sight for the blind, healing for the sick, and rivers of justice for the oppressed. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord’s Prayer

Eternal God, our times are held within your hands, our lives are shaped by your design from before our birth. You take hold of what has happened and nurture within it what you wish to be. Like a wise mother, you give us both freedom and guidance. How wise and caring you are, most blessed God; we praise you and thank you. Eternal God, our times are open to your Spirit, our lives await your touch.

Rest your hand upon your church. Give it courage and passion to bring your word and touch to all in need. May it be a place of acceptance, healing and reconciliation.

Touch the lives of our leaders. Bless them with both wisdom and compassion to lead. Guide the people of the world to work for security, opportunity and peace for all. Especially we pray for the people of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Embrace those who mourn a loss in their lives, especially we pray for the friends and family of Leah Barnfather and Beth Killins.

Enfold those who are ill or dying, awaiting medical intervention or recovering from treatment. Comfort them, and if not a cure for what ails them, grant them healing. Especially we pray for Christa, Christina, Kurt, Marilyn, Ina, David Johnson and their loved ones and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

God of mercy, eternal source of life renewed and abundant, rise up and flood with loving care every withered life and every heart that thirsts for you. This we pray in the name of the One who taught us to pray, saying,

**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 and ever. Amen.

Hymn VU 93 “When Heaven’s Bright with Mystery”

Words: Rob Johns, 1985. Music: English traditional melody; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1919.

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When heaven’s bright with mystery and science searches nature’s art,
when all creation yearns for peace and hope sinks deep in human hearts,
appear to us, O Holy Light; lift from our eyes the shades of night.

When Herod barter power and lives and Rachel’s weeping fills the night,
when suffering’s mask marks every face, and Love’s a refugee in flight,
reveal to us your word of grace and make us witness to your peace.

When fragile faith, like desert wind, blows dry and empty, hope erased,
when withered grass and fading flower proclaim again our day’s brief space,
breathe on the clay of our despair and work a new creation there.

When heaven’s bright with mystery and stars still lead an unknown way,
when love still lights a gentle path where courts of power can hold no sway,
there with the Magi, let us kneel, our gifts to share, God’s world to heal.

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God sends us out to the lonely, the forsaken,
all those forgotten in these weary times.

**We will go to gather them up into the heart of love,
to welcome them as our siblings.**

Jesus calls us to throw a party for those
who are hungry for hope, who thirst for justice.

**We will go to be with those who sit at empty tables,
who long to taste the sweet bouquet of grace.**

The Spirit sends us forth,
transformed from the foolish to the faithful.

**We will go to those who walk in the muck of life,
who yearn for new days, of joy and wonder.**

Response: VU 298 “When You Walk from Here” Words & Music: Linnea Good, 1991.

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When you walk from here, when you walk from here,
walk with justice, walk with mercy, and with God’s humble care.

Postlude: “All Things Bright and Beautiful” John Rutter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Spiritual Formation Group** meets Wednesday, January 29th at 2:00 p.m.

The **Central Board** meets on Wednesday, January 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

LECTIONARY READINGS: January 26 – Third Sunday after Epiphany
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21