

Morning Worship

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 31, 2021 (Online)



Ringling of the Bell

Our Life Together

The Solemn Declaration

Prelude Music

Call to Worship

Leader: By this I have known the presence of the Lord:

All: in the rising of the sun, in the smile of another's face,

Leader: in the touch of a hand or the sound of laughter

All: in the scent of a flower holding the promise of spring.

Leader: By this I have known the power of the Lord:

All: in the healing of hurts, in the forgiveness of sin,

Leader: in the giving of gifts beyond all expectation,

All: in the shower of love that comes from God's Son.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord with all of our heart!

All: Let us worship our God, whose presence and power endures forever!

Prayer of Invocation

Almighty and most merciful God, we give thanks that you know us and love us. Help us, through the power of your Holy Spirit, grow deeper, wider, and fuller in our knowledge and understanding of your ways. Help us, through the giving us your divine Wisdom, bring others closer to you and to your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Call to Confession

We are the people of God, but Scripture reminds us that we still sin. We need to confess our failures, knowing that the Lord Jesus intercedes for us with the Father, who freely forgives us, through His infinite goodness and mercy. So, let us draw near to God with sincerity and confidence, and pray together.

Confession

You, God, known for your wonderful deeds - your mercy, forgiveness, and love. You have shown us the power of your works time and time again. And yet, we are slow to comprehend; we refuse to acknowledge your gifts; we act self-sufficient, as if we provide ourselves everything we need, when we know in our hearts that you are the author of life. Forgive us, we pray. As we confess our sins, in thought, word or deed, may your redemptive presence flood our lives that we may praise your name forevermore. Amen

...time of silent prayer...

Assurance

The good news is that God offers redemption to His people of every generation, making new life possible for everyone. Ask for forgiveness, believe in God's compassionate grace, and be healed.

United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify:

He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself.

He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him.

Amen.

Scripture

Old Testament: Psalm 111

New Testament: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

The Gospel

Mark 1:21-28

Morning Message

Hope and Healing

Jan Garinger

Morning Prayer

Our Lord's Prayer

Symbolic Offering

God tells us over and over in the Bible not to be afraid. Our gifts this morning are one way that we trust God even in a world that keeps telling us to be afraid. We need to let go of thinking that we are on our own, and live each day in graceful dependence on God. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

Offertory Music

Dedication

Transforming God, we dedicate our gifts for the health of Your creation. May those who receive these gifts be blessed by Your love and inspired to give to others so that Your creation will continue to be transformed by Your love.

Benediction

Leader: May God the Creator renew in you the creative Spirit that brings healing and life to our world. May Jesus the Christ, uphold you in grace and love. May the Holy Spirit fill you with courage to be bearers of God's song of hope in the world.

All: Amen

*Three-fold Amen

#812 (NCH)

*Postlude

