

Eastminster Presbyterian Church
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 31, 2021

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

VOLUNTARY

God Himself is Light
Melody Davis

Shea

OPENING HYMN 263 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Apostle Paul tells us that what is most essential in our conduct as Christians is not knowledge, but love. And that what we know is less important than our being known by God. So, we confess together....

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The times when we have used knowledge in ways which put people down rather than build them up; when we have idolized knowledge at the expense of loving and caring for others; when we have ridiculed others for having a weak and feeble faith because they appear to lack wisdom. God, source of all knowledge, goodness, love and wisdom, forgive us. Remind us of Paul's words 'If I have all knowledge but do not have love, I am nothing.' Touch us, teach us, heal us and make us newly aware of your love and forgiveness. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

God brings new life where we are worn and tired; new love, where we have turned hard hearted; forgiveness, where we have wounded, and the joy and freedom of your holy spirit, where we are the prisoners of our selves. Thanks be to God who brings forgiveness and hope through Jesus Christ.

RESPONSE 582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of life, of peace, of wonders that will not cease, by the power of your Spirit be present with us now in the hearing, understanding and living out of your Word. Amen

OLD TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible*, page 174)

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

¹⁵The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God anymore, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

ANTHEM

Healer of My Soul
Michele Pappas, Choir, Sean Turner, Clarinet

John Talbot

NEW TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible*, page 35)

Mark 1: 21-28

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, convulsing him 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.

HYMN 616 *Our God Is An Awesome God*

SERMON

Kingdom Carefronting

Sherry Holloman

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from 1 John

We believe in God the Father, who reveals his love to us in Christ. We believe in God the Son, who pours out God's Holy Spirit on us. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who teaches us God's truth. We believe in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve. I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey. I asked for health, that I might do greater things. I was given infirmity, that I might do better things. I asked for riches, that I might be happy. I was given poverty, that I might be wise. I asked for power that I might have the praise of others. I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God. I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life. I was given life, that I might enjoy all things. I got nothing that I asked for—but got everything I had hoped for. almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered. I am, among all people, most richly blessed.

On this day, God, our prayers are many. Prayers for healing, prayers for comfort, prayers for wholeness, prayers for steadfast faith in the face of questions, prayers for peace. Be the strength in our weakness. Clear our heads of the foolish of believing we can be our own gods. Steer our hearts to utter dependence on you. This we 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

May God bless the gifts which we bring as signs of our gratitude and bless us as we seek to be faithful proclaimers of the gospel in word and deed.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Praise His Holy Name

Keith Hampton

RESPONSE 605 *Praise to God the Father*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Generous God, ready us to follow Jesus, to make an offering of ourselves, not just our money. Teach us that we might teach others. Heal us that we might become instruments of your wholeness. To these purposes we dedicate this offering and our lives. Amen.

GOING INTO THE WORLD WITH GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND BENEDICTION

Go forth replenished by the grace and mercy of God, blessed by the healing love of Jesus, energized by the limitless power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN 796 *We Come to You for Healing Lord*