

Eastminster Presbyterian Church
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
5TH Sunday after Epiphany

February 7, 2021

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

VOLUNTARY

All Glory Laud and Honor
Melody Davis

Arr. Paxton

OPENING HYMN 35 *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

CALL TO CONFESSION

It is in the desert moments of our lives, when we realize how we have failed to love, to act, or to be God's children. We come to God, speaking of those things we would rather forget, but in doing so, hearing the words of God's healing and hope through Christ.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us, God who hears our hearts. In setting aside false pride, may we reach down to lift up the fallen. In letting go of that security which only deludes us, may we place our lives into your hopeful future. In turning from the stress which controls our lives, may we find the One who leads us into the kingdom of peace, joy and hope, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

No matter how many times it is said, it bears repeating: God loves us, God forgives us, God heals us, God restores us to new life. Thanks be to God who fills us with grace and then sends us out to proclaim the gospel to others.

RESPONSE 581 *Glory to God*

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of generation to generation, by your Holy Spirit, help us to proclaim the wondrous things that you have done and continue to do in our lives. Give us strength and courage to share the Good News of your love and your presence. For we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible*, page 668)

Isaiah 40: 21-31

²¹Have 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? ²²It 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; ²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. ²⁴Scarcely 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. ²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift 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. ²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God”? ²⁸Have 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. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹but 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.

ANTHEM

Song of Promise
Sanctuary Choir

Alan Pote

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

Mark 1: 29-39

²⁹As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³²That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And 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. ³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” ³⁸He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

HYMN 792 *There is a Balm in Gilead*

SERMON

We’ve A Story to Tell

Sherry Holloman

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all of God's blessings. May we receive God's tithes and our offerings.

OFFERTORY

*Come to the Table of the Lord
Sanctuary Choir*

Jay Althouse

RESPONSE 606 *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God generosity, we ask you to bless our gifts and with the addition of your blessing, just as it was with the loaves and fishes, there is enough for all. Amen

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

Once again our Lord invites us to gather around this table, from different homes and circumstances, with different dreams and ideas, different in age and color, different in gender and language. Yet, we are one family, children of God every one as we join our hearts in worship, our voices in praise, and our lives as the Body of Christ.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

In the morning, God, you took creation and flung it to the far corners of chaos, naming the stars twinkling in the night, shaping deserted places for prayers, feeding all the creatures in the fields. You longed to walk with those created in your image, so we would not weary, but we listened to the boasting of death, as it proclaimed sin's opportunities. You sent the prophets, who cried out, "Haven't you been listening; don't you realize what God is trying to do for you?" But we continued to delight in sin. So, having created all things, you became the one thing we needed, our Savior. With those so weary that cannot

take another step, with those revived by your grace and hope, we lift our praises to you now and forever:

RESPONSE 552 *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Holy are you, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son. He became weak, so the power of the world would be shattered; he became poor, so we might be filled with the riches of your grace; he went to that deserted place we call the grave, so death might be knocked off its pedestal, as you breathed new life into his spirit. As we search for him in our time, as we would proclaim the gospel, may we find that mystery we call faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Here is the Bread, which though broken, can strengthen the powerless. Here is the Cup, which though emptied, can fill the weary with hope. Pour out your Spirit not only on these gifts, but upon your children gathered around the Table. We come, bone-tired, so make us bone of your bone, and flesh of your flesh. Feed us with your hope and joy, so we may proclaim your kingdom to everyone we meet. And when the day comes to gather with all your children around the Feast of the Lamb, we will join hands and dance around the Table, singing your praise forever and ever

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gracious God, as we run the race of life, we often come across those hurdles, obstacles that weaken our spirit and test our faith. We grow weary, as we come upon those disappointments and as we meet resistance, both within and without. We often lose sight of where we are going, and yet we know we are not alone, you are with us. So into your hands we place our lives with all of the tensions, difficulties, fragmentations, busyness, as well as all the joys of health, family, friends and the opportunity for new beginnings.

Into your hands, precious Lord, we place our church as we seek to care for others and as we seek to grow in our faith. Help us to know that we need not depend on good deeds and possessions for our worth, for each of us is accepted and loved as we are. Into your hands we place the hurting, the sorrowing, the struggling. Into your hands, we place the care of our loved ones. Hear our prayers.

Into your hands we place our world and we ask that you show us the path of peace and the ways of sharing your vision. Send your Spirit upon us and fill us with your love and grace. Help us become one family in Christ as we seek to live out a future of possibility and hope. This we ask in the name of Christ...**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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND BREAKING OF THE BREAD

RESPONSE 555 *Lamb of God*

RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENT

This sacrament is not the possession of this congregation nor of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Lord welcomes you. We welcome you. All persons are invited to receive the sacrament.

COMUNION RESPONSE *LUYH 20 Alleluia*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Send us into your world God, so we might walk miles in the shoes of others. Call us Jesus to serve all we meet, in your name. Spirit, encourage us to breath your new life into the weary and the faint. Hear our prayer and accept our thanksgiving. In Christ's name. Amen!

GOING INTO THE WORLD WITH GOD'S WORD

DISMISSAL AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN 300 *We are One in the Spirit*