

We are imperfect believers, passionate about sharing the love of Christ: by Connecting, Growing, and Serving.



A Service of Worship for the Lord's Day Third Sunday after Epiphany January 21, 2024

We Gather to Worship God

Welcome! If you are visiting, please use the QR code on the visitor card found in the pew rack to share your info online or fill out the back of the card and drop it in the offering plate. Prayer cards are also available in the pew rack, and we invite you to list your concerns and place them in the offering plate as well.

*Congregation stands as noted

Chiming of the Hour and Introit

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Silence your scattered thoughts and lay down your distractions. God calls us here to worship.

People: We are here to worship.

Leader: Drop your nets and leave your boats. God is with us. Jesus calls us.

People: We are here to worship.

All: Let us worship God together.

Invocation and Lord's Prayer

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.

*Opening Hymn #790

"In Silence My Soul Thirsts"

Words/Music by Kenneth Jones

We Acknowledge Our Brokenness and Seek Reconciliation with God

Preparing Our Hearts for Confession - "Confession" (front cover of hymnal)

Lord, I come before you, asking your forgiveness. I am broken, I have faltered. I have turned from you. Create in me a new heart. Fill me with your love. Grant that I receive your grace, I pray. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Loving God, we confess the many ways we turn from you. You call, but we do not listen. You show us your path, but we prefer our own way. You share your abundant grace and mercy with us, but we are unwilling to share it with others. Forgive us. Heal us. Lead us back to you so that we may truly answer your call and share your good news with others. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Time of Silent Reflection and Personal Prayer of Confession Leader: And all the people of Christ say, **People: Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

God desires a relationship with us and reconciliation for all of creation. Jesus comes bearing the good news of forgiveness and transformation. Receive the good news of God's grace: We are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God!

*Thanks for God's Forgiveness (#647; no repeats)

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son. And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!" Give Thanks! Give Thanks!

*Passing of the Peace

Leader: Grace to you, and peace from God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

*Transition Hymn #627

"I Love You, Lord"

We Respond to God's Faithfulness in Our Life

Offering Our Lives to Jesus through Our Time, Gifts, and Resources

(see the 'Giving' card in the pew rack for information about options for digital giving)

*Doxology (#606)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Time of Reflection, Meditation, Prayer

(Children that have not yet finished 1st Grade are dismissed at this time for Children's Church)

God's Word Is Read and Proclaimed

Special Music

"Lead Me Home" Arr. Joel Raney **Chancel Choir**

Scripture Reading

Psalm 62:5-12; Mark 1:14-20

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Proclamation of God's Word

"Is There Room for Procrastination?"

Responding to God's Word

*Affirmation of Our Faith (from A Declaration of Faith)

Rev. Preston Shealy

In forming his people and sending them into the world, Jesus called individuals to be disciples. They were to share the joy of his companionship, to understand and obey his teachings, and to follow him in life and death.

We confess that Christians today are called to discipleship. Life shared with Christ and shaped by Christ is God's undeserved gift to each of us. It is also God's demand upon every one of us, never perfectly fulfilled by any of us. Forgiven by God and supported by our siblings in Christ, we strive to become more faithful and effective in our daily practice of the Christian life.

*Responsive Hymn #751

Preparing Our Hearts for Prayer (#471)

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

Prayers for the People

Jennifer Massey

Sending Out Into the World

*Sending Hymn #170

*Charge and Blessing

*Congregational Benediction #541 (v.3)

"God Be With You Till We Meet Again"

"You Walk Along Our Shoreline"

*Postlude

<u>Sanctuary Flowers</u> – The flowers were placed in the sanctuary by Kevin Cribbs in honor of his wife Sandee's upcoming birthday.

Thank you for choosing to worship with us today. We hope you were blessed so you can go and be a witness to Christ's love in the world. May your spirits be renewed for the days ahead.





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Preston Shealy, Interim Pastor Kenneth Jones, Director of Music Millie Shiflett, Accompanist Karlee Tate, Director of Communications Joyce Johnson, CDC Director Richard Balentine, Elder of Administration Margaret Borry, Elder of Congregational Care Dana Tate, Elder of Christian Formation Russell Truluck, Elder of Facilities Management Rita Batman, Lay Leader

"From the Nets of Our Labor"

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"