

United Presbyterian Church
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 31, 2021
11:00am

WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Thanks for worshiping with us. Whether you are with us from the pew or with us via your computer screen, we are so glad you're here. Remember, worship is about God and we focus our eyes and hearts on the One who is before all things. At the same time, we know that when we gather, we receive gracious gifts and experience the love of Christ as one church.

To prepare for worship, read the Words of Preparation; read and reflect upon the Scripture passage for today. Be intentional about connecting with God in your worship.

Words for Preparation

"Perfect Light of revelation, as you shone in the life of Jesus, whose epiphany we celebrate, so shine in us and through us, that we may become beacons of truth and compassion, enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy. Amen."
-from Revised Common Liturgy Thematic Prayer

Prelude

Prelude in E Major (BWV 566)

J.S.Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Praise the LORD!

Give thanks to the LORD with your whole heart;

for great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

**Full of honor and majesty is God's work,
and his righteousness endures forever.**

The LORD has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;

the LORD is gracious and merciful.

Praise the Lord!

Hymn

"Blessed Jesus At Your Word"

Call to Confession

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence.

(Period of silence for personal confession)

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name.

Assurance of Pardon

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

Gloria Patri

Prayers of People 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 and ever.
*Amen.***

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 (New Revised Standard Version)

18:15 The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet.

18:16 This 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 any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die."

18:17 Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said.

18:18 I 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.

18:19 Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable.

18:20 But 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."

Mark 1:21-28 (New Revised Standard Version)

1:21 They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.

1:22 They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

1:23 Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit,

1:24 and 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."

1:25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!"

1:26 And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him.

1:27 They 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."

1:28 At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Rev. Candice Womack

Affirmation of Faith

We believe there is no condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus, for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, and who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers or height or depth or anything in all of creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

(Excerpt from Romans 8)

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

God has told us what is good; and what does the Lord require of you? To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

"Andante"

Felix Mendelssohn

(Please use this time for silent prayer and reflection as you consider ways to offer your life, your gifts, time, and commitment to God. You may give online at upctx.org/giving)

Prayer of Dedication

Eternal God, creator of the world and giver of all good, we thank you for the earth, our home, and for the gift of life. We praise you for your love in Jesus Christ, who came to heal this broken world, who died rejected on the cross, and rose triumphant from the dead. Because he lives, we live to praise you, our God forever. Amen.

Hymn

"Just a Closer Walk With Thee"

Choral Benediction

"Go Now In Peace"

Benediction

Postlude

"Wie schön leuchtet"

Paul Manz