

**Sunday, January 31, 2021
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Aria da Chiesa”
Sharon Gray, organ

arr. Denman Thompson

APOSTLES’ CREED – Jeff Langdon

**☒ I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen!**

WELCOMING SONG

“Rise, Shine, You People!”

ELW 665

**Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
our human story; God in him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,
with grace unbounded.**

**See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
he brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,
now are forgiven.**

**Come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling,
your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.
To all the world go out and tell the story
of Jesus' glory.**

Tell how the Father sent the Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation
God's new creation.

GREETING

- ☐ *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*
- ☑ **And also with you.**

SONG OF PRAISE

“Glory Be to God in Heaven”

pg. 204

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ *Compassionate God,*
- ☑ **you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“You Are Mine”

David Haas

Sharmyn Thompson, soprano

FIRST READING – Kathy Wessler, reading

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

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 any more, 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.”

Reflection

What is Moses’s word to the people about prophecy? What does he say God will do for them after Moses dies? (verse 15) Why does Moses say God does not speak directly to each person? (verses 16-17) What does God promise about letting God’s word be known to the people? (verse 18) What does God command the people to do when they hear this prophet speak? (verse 19) What does God say about a prophet who prophesies in the name of other gods? (verse 20) What does God say about a prophets who say they speak in God’s name, but God has not given them that word? We’ve had plenty of people who claim to speak the truth (in God’s name, or for the sake of another thing we hold to be good), but they speak the exact opposite of what somebody else speaks. Right now our country is in a fight about who speaks rightly and who doesn’t. How can you tell when someone is speaking for God (or for the good) and when someone is speaking lies about what would be good?

Psalm 111 – read together with Jim Pierce

- ¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.
- ²Great are your works, O LORD,
pondered by all who delight in them.
- ³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,
and your righteousness endures forever.
- ⁴You cause your wonders to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.
- ⁵You give food to those who fear you,
remembering forever your covenant.
- ⁶You have shown your people the power of your works
in giving them the lands of the nations.
- ⁷The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.
- ⁸They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.
- ⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;
holy and awesome is your name.
- ¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God’s praise endures forever.

Reflection

Perhaps this psalm answers the question I asked about the Deuteronomy text: how can you tell when someone is speaking for God (who is always good)? How does the psalmist begin the psalm, testifying to what s/he does? (verse 1) What does it mean to “ponder” all the works of God?—“to study” is the

English word used in the NRSV. (verse 2) It doesn't just mean to think about them lightly, in passing; it results in "delight" in the works of God. What are the marks of God's deeds/works? (verse 3) If the things we see as God's wonders (or God's words) are forgotten, can they be God's wonders? (verse 4) Why do we remember them? What do we receive from the hand of God, and the promises of God, when we remember them? (verse 5—I take this to mean that those who "forget" God imagine that they get their livelihood by themselves, without God.) One of the things that was important to the Israelites, the people of God, was a land to live in. How did they get it? (verse 6) How does the psalmist describe God's works? (verse 7) Why do we obey God's commandments (precepts)? (verses 7-8) What is God's purpose for the people? (verse 9) In verse 10, "fear" does not mean "to be afraid" but "reverence." What happens to us (and to the world) when we fear the Lord? (verse 10)

SECOND READING – Joyce Stroud, reading

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by God.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called deities in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many deities and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against brothers and sisters in your community, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Reflection

One of the questions that Paul deals with in this letter is the question that some in Corinth raised: Is it all right to eat food that had been offered to idols (that is, meat that was sold in butcher shops connected to heathen temples, and relatively expensive, available to the rich but not to the poor). Paul quotes those who are “knowledgeable” about things, (verses 4-6) that idols are not really gods, God is the only God in whom the world exists. In verse 7, Paul quotes those same knowledgeable people about what those who are not so knowledgeable believe, and in verse 8, their arguments against paying attention to those people. Yet, says Paul (returning to verses 1-3), when deciding on what to eat in the common meal, it is not knowledge that is needed but love. (Verse 2) What happens to someone who does not share your “knowledge” that food offered to idols is just fine to eat, and is influenced by

your behavior but does not share your knowledge? (verses 9-11) What does your knowledge accomplish then? (verse 12) How do we show love, and act in love, toward someone in our community when we don't agree with them?

GOSEPL ACCLAMATION

“Alleluia”

pg. 205

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior:
open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us;
speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing
for the good news that you bring.**

GOSPEL

Mark 1:21-28

Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.

²¹Jesus and his disciples 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 the spirit, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of the man. 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.

Reflection

Capernaum was the base of Jesus’ ministry—it is at the very north end of the Sea of Galilee, for those of you interested in geography. What did Jesus do there? What day was it? (verse 21) How did Jesus teach? (verse 22) The scribes would have learned from others, who were the authorities that they quoted. What happened as Jesus was teaching? (verse 23) Notes in the Lutheran Bible point out that in Mark, the “unclean spirits,” or demons, were part of the forces of evil. What did the man’s unclean spirit say to Jesus? (verse 24) How did the unclean spirit identify Jesus? What did Jesus say to him? (verse 25) The unclean spirit made a ruckus! (verse 26) Then what happened? How did those who saw what Jesus did react? (verse 27) Although Jesus told the unclean spirit to be silent, what happened when others heard about what Jesus did? (verse 28) How does this story help you to understand who Jesus is?

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

SERMON

Rev. Keith Hohly

SONG OF THE DAY

"People Need The Lord"

Ev'ryday they pass me by
I can see it in their eyes
Empty people filled with care
Headed who knows where
On they go through private pain
Living fear to fear
Laughter hides the silent cries
Only Jesus hears

Refrain

People need the Lord
People need the Lord
At the end of broken dreams
He's the open door
People need the Lord
People need the Lord
When will we realize
People need the Lord

We are called to take His light
To a world where wrong seems right
What could be too great a cost
For sharing life with one who's lost
Through His love our hearts can feel
All the grief they bear
They must hear the words of life
Only we can share. *Refrain*

PRAYER SONG

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

Taize

Phil & Nancy Lewis

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – led by Rev. Keith & Debra Hohly

We remember in our prayers

Chris & Andy Wilson (friends of Sharon Gray), Dave Newman, Dave Schmidt, Felicia Rush Blanc, Sarah Pierce, Rick & Cyndi Zebelean (friends of Sharmyn Thompson), Sylvia Rush (Grandmother of Felicia Rush Blanc), Myrene Bunge, Pamma Williams, Lynn Ann Flora (friend of Laurel Goforth), Keira Wall (great-niece of Irene Wall), Reed Nelson, Dorothy Masteller, and Dee Rasmussen

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For all who share the gospel and proclaim freedom in Christ throughout the world: prophets, teachers, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders; for the church and its ministries, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For all God's works in creation: plants and animals, water and soil, forests and farms; and for those tasked with protecting our natural resources and all that exists, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For government and leaders: cities and nations, rescue professionals and legal aid attorneys, elected officials and grassroots organizers; for all responsible for the well-being of civil society, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit: those who are sick and hospitalized, those living with HIV/AIDS, those struggling with mental illness, those who are hungry or homeless, and all in any need. In the midst of a global crisis, we look to you for strength, hope and help in fighting the coronavirus pandemic. We pray for those stricken with this disease and those who are treating them, for those mourning the loss of life and those facing death, and for those who urgently work to find effective treatments for cure. We lift up to you those in our faith community needing your care: Chris & Andy, Dave, Dave, Felicia, Sarah, Rick & Cyndi, Sylvia, Myrene, Pamma, Lynn Ann, Reed, Dorothy, and Dee, and those we name aloud or silently in our hearts, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the concerns of this congregation: those who travel, those absent from worship, those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries; for the people of God in this place and for other needs in our community, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the covenant God made with us in the waters of baptism, in thanksgiving for the baptized who have died in the Lord, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P *Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose voice is upon the waters,
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,
whose goodness cascades over all creation.*

G **Amen!**

P *Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.*

Silence is kept for reflection.

P *Holy God,*

G **you search us and know us.**

**You are acquainted with all our ways.
We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.
We turn inward, failing to follow
your outward way of love.
We distrust those who are not like us.
We exploit the earth and its resources
and fail to consider generations to come.
Forgive us, gracious God,
for all we have done and left undone.
Even before the words are on our tongues,
you know them;
receive them in your divine mercy.
Amen!**

- P** *How vast is God's grace!*
Through the power and promise of ✝ Christ Jesus,
our sins are washed away
and we are claimed as God's own beloved.
Indeed, we are forgiven.
In the wake of God's forgiveness,
we are called to be the beloved community
living out Christ's justice
and the Spirit's reconciling peace.
- G** **Amen!**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

- P** *The peace of Christ be with you always.*
- G** **And also with you!**

DIALOGUE

- P** *The Lord be with you.*
- G** **And also with you.**
- P** *Lift up your hearts.*
- G** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*
- G** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

- P** *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,*
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

*By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

SANCTUS

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

pg. 207

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heav’n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest,
hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P *Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.*

*In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.*

*Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.*

A **Amen!**

LORD'S PRAYER

☩ Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen!

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☩ *Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus. Come and be fed. All are welcome.*

COMMUNION

BLESSING

☩ *May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in His grace.*

☩ Amen!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☩ *Christ Jesus,*

☩ **at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey.
Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and
serve others in your name. Amen!**

BENEDICTION

☩ *God the creator strengthen you;
Jesus the beloved fill you;
and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✠ keep you in peace.*

☩ Amen!

SENDING SONG

“Bind Us Together”

Refrain

**Bind us together Lord
Bind us together with cords
That cannot be broken
Bind us together Lord
Bind us together Lord
Bind us together with love**

**There is only one God
There is only one King
There is only one body
That is why we can sing *Refrain***

**Made for the glory of God
Purchased by His precious Son
Born with the right to be clean
For Jesus the vict'ry has won *Refrain***

**You are the fam'ly of God
You are the promise divine
You are God's chosen desire
You are the glorious new wine *Refrain***

DISMISSAL – Jeff Langdon

- 📖** *Go in peace and serve our Lord.*
- 🙏** **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

“Be Thou My Vision”
Sharon Gray, piano

arr. Mark Hayes

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Rev. Keith Hohly, Interim Pastor

Instruments: Piano and Organ – Sharon Gray | Guitar – Roger Lenander | Guitar/Bass – Jim Pierce

Song leaders and vocal talents: Sharmyn Thompson, Keith Hohly, Deb Hohly,
Dave Newman, Jeff Langdon, Phil Lewis, Nancy Lewis, Jim Pierce, Juel Pierce, Jim Bunge,
Carol Bunge, Misty Coyle, Roger Lenander, and Barb Aubrey

Reflections on Today's Readings written by Rev. Juel Pierce

Music and Liturgy:

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