

Sunday, February 7, 2021
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"How Great Thou Art"
Sharon Gray, organ

arr. Dan Miller

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

"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

ELW 886

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.

The name of Jesus charms our fears
and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears,
brings life and health and peace.

He speaks, and list'ning to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!

To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

GREETING

- P** *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*
- C** **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

- P** *Everlasting God,*
- C** **you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!**

FIRST READING – Juel Pierce, reading**Isaiah 40:21-31**

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

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 God 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 the great 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 God 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?

The one who brings out their host and numbers them,

calling them all by name;

because God 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.

The LORD does not faint or grow weary;

the understanding of God is unsearchable.

²⁹The LORD 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.

Reflection

This text begins with the question, “Don’t you already know this?” Who is it that they (the people) are supposed to know? (verse 21) What is God’s relationship with everything that God has made? (verse 22) Who is God in relationship to those on earth who think they are really something? (verse 23) What are they really like, compared to the everlasting God? (verse 24) Who can God be compared to? (verses 25-26) What are those who believe they are in control really like? As for the people of God (“O Jacob, O Israel”), what do they think God knows about them? (verse 27) Why are they wrong? (verse 28) What does God do for those who wait for God? (verses 29-31) Who gets their strength from God? Where does your strength (perhaps physical, more likely spiritual) come from?

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c – read together with Jim Roever

¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!

How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

²The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem,
and gathers the exiles of Israel.

³The LORD heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.

⁴The LORD counts the number of the stars
and calls them all by their names.

⁵Great is our LORD and mighty in power;
there is no limit to God’s wisdom.

⁶The LORD lifts up the lowly,
but casts the wicked to the ground.

⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp to our God,

⁸who covers the heavens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.

⁹God provides food for the cattle
and for the young ravens when they cry.

¹⁰God is not impressed by the might of a horse,
and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD,
in those who await God’s steadfast love. ^{20c}Hallelujah!

Reflection

Remember that “Hallelujah” means “Praise the Lord.” Why does the psalmist enjoy praising God? (verse 1) What does God do for the people of Israel? (verse 2) What does God do for those who are wounded and weak? (verse 3) What does God do for the stars? (verse 4) These all demonstrate God’s wisdom. How do they do that? (verse 5) If God knows the number of the stars and all their names, what does that say about God’s power and wisdom? How does God treat the lowly? (verse 6) The wicked? Why does this mean we should sing songs of thanksgiving to God? (verse 7) What does God do for the creation? (verse 8) What does God do for animals and birds? (verse 9) This sounds like the

creation story, doesn't it? We people might be impressed with strength and speed. (verse 10) Who does God find pleasure in? (verse 11) Finish this part of the psalm with another **Hallelujah!** (verse 20c)

SECOND READING – Nancy Lewis, reading

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jewish people I became as a Jew, in order to win the Jewish people. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Reflection

In this text from 1 Corinthians, Paul is saying that people who proclaim the gospel should earn their living doing so, but he has a right not to do so (see 1 Corinthians 9:13-15). He also says he is not boasting. Who has given him the right, the authority, and the obligation to proclaim the gospel? (verses 16-17) How does he use that right and obligation? (verse 18) How does he relate to various groups in order to share the gospel? (verses 19-22) Why does he do that? (verse 23) How might Paul be an example to us of how we share the gospel?

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 1:29-39

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

²⁹As soon as Jesus and the disciples 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. ³¹Jesus 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 Jesus 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, Jesus 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.” ³⁸Jesus 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.

Reflection

Our gospel text last week was about Jesus healing a man with a demon at the synagogue in Capernaum on the sabbath. Where did they go from the synagogue? (verse 29) Who needed Jesus’ healing help there? (verse 30) What did he do for her? (verse 31) Remember from last week’s gospel text that his fame had begun to spread. Who else came to see him? (verses 32-33) What did he do for them? (verse 34) What do you make of Jesus not permitting the demons to speak? (Remember he told the demon in last week’s text to “be silent.”) Who does Jesus not want to know who he really is? Do we know who he really is? The secret is not kept from us! Where does he go the next morning? (verse 35) Why do you think he goes there? What does he do there? Who goes looking for him? (verse 36) What do they tell him? (verse 37) What is Jesus’ response to this? (verse 38) Why do you think he doesn’t just stay in one place? (verse 39) Why does he want to tell people about why he came, when he doesn’t want the demons to tell? How do we know who Jesus is?

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Sarah Sedlacek

SERMON

Rev. Keith Hohly

SONG OF THE DAY

“On Eagle’s Wings”

Praise Team

Michael Joncas

PRAYER SONG

“O Lord, Hear My Prayer”

Phil & Nancy Lewis

Taize

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – led by Nancy & Phil Lewis

We remember in our prayers

Floreen Johnson, Dave Newman, Chris and Andy Wilson (friends of Sharon Gray), 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, 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 the church: for ministries of healing and wholeness, for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains, for those serving in prison ministry, for all who proclaim freedom and release in the name of Christ, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For creation: for insects in the grass, clouds on the mountaintops, for cattle and the rainwater they drink, for the humility to take our place among all creatures of the earth, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the nations: for all who lead in cities and towns, states and countries; for community organizers, school officials, and CEOs; for international health organizations, that in times of trial, fear, or hopelessness, they find freedom in service to those most in need, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For all wearied by life's burdens: for those who are poor, for those lacking supportive relationships, for those crushed by debt, for those struggling with chronic pain or other sickness, for those exhausted from overwork or stress, and for all who cry out to you. 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: Floreen, Dave, Chris and Andy, Dave, Felicia, Sarah, Rick & Cyndi, Sylvia, Myrene, Pamma, Lynn Ann, Keira, Reed, Dorothy, Dee, and those we name aloud or silently in our hearts, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For this congregation: for outreach and social ministries centered here; for parish nurses and visitors; for ministries of companionship and support, for the young people in this place who open us to new understandings, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed, who were called by name and now rest from their labors, that their lives serve as witnesses to the goodness of God, 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.*

A *Amen!*

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P *Holy God,*

C **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.

C Amen!

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

C **And also with you!**

DIALOGUE

P *The Lord be with you.*

C **And also with you.**

P *Lift up your hearts.*

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

C **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.*

☩ 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 \mp keep you in peace.*

☩ Amen!

SENDING SONG

“We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations”

H. Ernest Nichol

We've a story to tell to the nations,
that shall turn their hearts to the right,
a story of truth and mercy,
a story of peace and light,
a story of peace and light.

Refrain

For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
and the dawning to noonday bright,
and Christ's great kingdom shall come to earth,
the kingdom of love and light.

We've a song to be sung to the nations,
that shall lift their hearts to the Lord,
a song that shall conquer evil,
and shatter the spear and sword,
and shatter the spear and sword. *Refrain*

We've a message to give to the nations,
that the Lord who reigneth above
has sent us His Son to save us,
and show us that God is love,
and show us that God is love. *Refrain*

We've a Savior to show to the nations,
who the path of sorrow has trod,
that all of the world's great peoples
might come to the truth of God,
might come to the truth of God! *Refrain*

DISMISSAL – Jeff Langdon

P *Go in peace and serve our Lord.*

G **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

“Come, Share the Lord”

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:

*"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" ELW# 886 | Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
Text and Tune: Public Domain*

*"We've a Story to Tell to the Nations" GHF #423 | Text: H. Ernest Nichol, 1862 - 1926
Text and Tune: Public Domain*

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