



# First Presbyterian

## CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God

January 21, 2024

The Third Sunday after Epiphany

*\*Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

### WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

Blessed Jesus, At Your Word (Hymn 454)

J. S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

### WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 62

For God alone my soul waits in silence;

**for my hope is from the Lord.**

God alone is my rock and my salvation;

**my fortress, I shall not be shaken.**

On God rests my deliverance and my honor;

**my mighty rock, my refuge is God.**

Trust in God at all times, O people;

**God is a refuge for us.**

**Come, let us worship God.**

\*HYMN 461 (V.1-4)

God Is Here!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, you are here and we are your people offering prayers and praise, O Lord of creation. And here as well, O God, is our hope for newness and renewal. But Lord, we confess that at times we let weariness and discouragement overcome our enthusiasm for a new beginning. We allow towering obstacles to obstruct our visions for the future. And we permit the time-consuming routines of daily living to consume most of our energy so we have little remaining to focus on expanding your Kingdom – here at this time and in this place. Send your Spirit to sustain us, to energize us, and to revitalize us in discipleship for Christ's sake. In Jesus' name we pray.**

*Silent prayer*

**Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God understands that we are susceptible to being distracted and perhaps, resistant to God's will for our lives. In God's mercy and love for us he sent Christ, his Son, to show us the way to live and to reconcile us with God so that our salvation is assured. Praise be to God. Amen.

## \*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen. Amen.**

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Mark 1:14-20

### DISCUSSION

Considering the Future

Rev. Larry Van Hise

### ANTHEM

I Danced in the Morning

text: Sydney Carter  
music: American Shaker melody  
The Chancel Choir

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.  
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

#### *Refrain:*

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,  
But they would not dance and they would not follow me.  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John.  
They came with me and the dance went on.

#### *Refrain*

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame.  
The holy people said it was a shame.  
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,  
And left me there on a cross to die.

#### *Refrain*

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black.  
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.  
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,  
But I am the dance and I still go on.

*Refrain*

They cut me down and I leapt up high.  
I am the life that will never, never die.  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me,  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

*Refrain*

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Humbled by God's generosity, let us offer our gifts to God and God's ministries through Christ's church.

*Please leave your offering in the boxes at the front and rear of the sanctuary  
or make your gifts online or via mail.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God, you meet our needs and transform us for service. Accept these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our commitment to witness to Christ's ministry in your world. Amen.**

\*RESPONSE

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE 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.**

**WE GO IN GOD'S NAME**

\*HYMN 442 (V.1-4)

The Church's One Foundation

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Jesus, Lead Us On

Manz

*The flowers on the communion table today are given in loving memory of cherished family and friends,  
by Gloria Snyder.*

Worship Leaders

Rev. Larry Van Hise

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

The Chancel Choir

Amy Hilliard, Liturgist

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Pat Koefoed

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