



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God
January 29, 2023

The Fourth 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

Adagio (Sonata No. 1)

Mendelssohn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

God calls us to seek justice:

Let Christ's love for the poor and hungry fill the earth.

God calls us to show kindness,

let Christ's light shine in places of brokenness and despair.

God call us to walk humbly in the Spirit,

let us join the work of the kingdom in humility and hope.

Called, blessed and inspired, let us worship God together.

*HYMN 298 (V.1-2)

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

There's a wideness in God's mercy,

Like the wideness of the sea;

There's a kindness in God's justice,

Which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows

Are more felt than up in heaven;

There is no place where earth's failings

Have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader

Than the measures of the mind;

And the heart of the Eternal

Is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more faithful,

We would gladly trust God's Word;

And our lives reflect thanksgiving

For the goodness of our Lord.

WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

RESPONSIVE READING

Micah 6:8

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before God with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

O mortal, God has told you what is good; what does the Lord require of you...?

To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the ages, we confess the world's wisdom attracts us, in advertisement and argument. We fail to measure messages according to the wisdom in your Word. We find calls to do justice too overwhelming. We listen as the world tells us to look to our own interests first. Forgive us, we pray. Renew us with your hope, so that we may turn our true desire to do justice into concrete action. Renew us in your grace, that we may walk more humbly with you and each other day by day.

Silent Prayer

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Though God knows our failings, forgiveness is ours in Jesus Christ. Rejoice and be glad!

*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 READING

Matthew 5:1-12

SERMON

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Be not afraid, for I have redeemed you.
 Be not afraid, I've called you by name.
 My love for you is everlasting,
 My love for you shall have no end.

When you pass through the waters, I will surround you.
 When you pass through the floods, they will not sweep o'er.
 When you walk through the fire, you will not be consumed.
 You are my child, you are so precious to me.

You are my child, and I'll love you always.
 Just hold my hand, and I'll lead you home.
 When you feel lost, always remember:
 I am right here, just call out my name.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Beloved children of God, too often we see the world through a lens of scarcity. We look at all the things we do not have or wish for something bigger and better. And yet, our stories of faith tell us that the smallest things often become enormous when placed in God's hands. And so, you are invited to bring your "little" and watch how God can do great things to bless the entire community.

Please leave your offering in the box at the front of the sanctuary or make your gifts online or via mail.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy and righteous God, we offer our gifts with humble hearts, knowing the need in our world is great and our gifts alone will not be enough. But we offer our gifts in hope that you will bless them, multiply them, and use them to help fulfill your purpose revealed in Jesus Christ, Savior of us all. 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 335 (V.1-3)

Though I May Speak

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
And have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain;
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
And striving so my love profess,
But not be given by love within,
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
By this we worship and are freed.

*BENEDICTION

May the God of justice strengthen your will to serve.
May the Christ of compassion inspire your heart to love.
May the Holy Spirit walk with you in wisdom this day and always.

POSTLUDE

We All Believe in One God

Dupré

Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel
Gloria Snyder, Organist
Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director
The Chancel Choir
Pat Koefoed, Liturgist

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

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Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.