



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God
February 5, 2023

The Fifth 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

O How Happy Are Ye

Brahms

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Just as sunrise breaks through the darkness each day,
so God's grace, mercy and justice shine forth.

We gather together, with devotion and doubt, with weariness and wonder;
trusting that God's peace and love are present here.

Come and worship as you are, knowing you are loved.

We come, rejoicing, to praise God's holy name.

*HYMN 263 (V.1-4)

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
Then wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.

Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

RESPONSIVE READING

Isaiah 58

God's people asked the Lord:

"Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

The prophet responded:

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight.

Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

The Lord is clear: Is not this the fast that I choose...

**To loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?**

Is not this not the fast that I choose, asks the Lord:

**Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?**

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful.

We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.

We love with condition.

We judge and condemn.

We cast the first stone, and keep the logs in our own eyes.

We do not turn to you as the source of our healing.

**Forgive us, we pray. Shine your light on us so we see the ways of your wisdom more clearly
and follow the path Jesus sets before us with more humble hearts.**

Silent Prayer

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Christ is the first born of creation, shining a redeeming light into the darkness of human sin. In Christ we are forgiven, restored and made new. Thanks be to God, we can make a fresh start today.

*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 5:13-20

SERMON

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

ANTHEM

This Little Light of Mine

Traditional African-American spiritual
arr. Tim Brace

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Oh, everywhere I go, Lord, I'm gonna let it shine
Everywhere I go, Lord, I'm gonna let it shine
Everywhere I go, Lord, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Oh, all through the night, Lord, I'm gonna let it shine
All through the night, Lord, I'm gonna let it shine
All through the night, Lord, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

This little light of mine, Lord, I'm gonna let it shine
Oh, this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

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.

**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.**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Christ's table is wide, and his welcome is for all. Jesus dined with sinners and saints, with farmhands and foreigners, with disciples and doubters, with children and cherished friends, with the outcast and the outspoken, with lepers and loved ones.

And just as he ate at others' tables, when Christ set his banquet table, we welcomed us all too. As we gather around Christ's table, we are united with all of God's beloved across the world through the love and grace made known in the bread broken and cup passed. So come to the table where we witness Christ's love and peace for all.

THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PRAYER

With fresh eyes and renewed hope, we join our voices with those around the world and with your heavenly chorus of all the saints to sing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven 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.

PRAYER

...Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The bread and juice are distributed together and can be enjoyed immediately.

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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful and loving God, you created salt within the earth to protect and heal; to cure and add flavor to the food we eat. When you created our bodies, you put that salt in us. And in you, we are the salt of the earth.

You created light to warm the world so that life could exist and find order. You came to us as light so that we would not be overcome by the darkness. And you place that light in us and call us to be the light of the world.

As we reflect on these mysteries, we give you thanks for the sustenance you have provided at your table. May our light so shine before people so that you will be glorified and the whole world would join us in our praise of you. Amen.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN 293 (V.1-2)

This Is My Father's World

This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest in me the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world:
Oh, let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
The battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and heaven be one.

*BENEDICTION

"You are the salt of the earth."

May God, sprinkle us across our town, across our world, to bring the flavor of the Kingdom wherever we go.

"You are the light of the world."

May God uncover the radiance that is within you, to shine with love wherever you go.

Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

The Chancel Choir

Linda Martin, Liturgist

Susan Mackay & Shirley Keller, Communion Servers

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

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Each Sunday we sing hymns taken from the blue hymnal provided for you in the pew where you are seated. Though we print the lyrics to the hymns in the bulletin, we encourage you to turn to the hymnal so you can also read the accompanying music.

Matthew 5:13-20

'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'