

January 31, 2021

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany



Ulrich Henn, Healing the Sick , 2008

We are filled with joy at your presence and hope you experience God's Spirit as you worship and meet with those around you. If you would like more information about RPC, please talk with any Session member or the Pastor.

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Bold Letters -- Indicate congregational response

GATHERING

PREPARING THE WORD

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Holy God,
you confound the world's wisdom
by giving your kingdom to the lowly
and pure in heart.
Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice
and perseverance in striving for peace,
that by our words and deeds
the world may see the promise of your kingdom,
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Call to Confession

When we pass through deep waters or go through times of fiery trial, the Lord
our God is with us. With confidence in God, our creator and redeemer,
let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God,
you love us, but we have not loved you.
You call, but we have not listened.
We walk away from neighbors in need,
wrapped in our own concerns.
We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.
God of grace,
help us to admit our sin,
so that as you come to us in mercy,
we may confess, turn to you, and receive forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our redeemer.**

Silence is kept for personal confession

Assurance of Pardon

Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.

**God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth! By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Amen.**

Response in Praise

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

#305 (vs. 1)

**Come sing, O church, in joy!
Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has led us
through the ages long!
In bold accord,
come celebrate the journey now
and praise the Lord!**

THE WORD

First Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

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 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."

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Mark 1:21-28

²¹They 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 him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice,

came out of him. 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.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

From Among Your Own

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Unity Hymn

There Is a Balm in Gilead

#792 (vs. 1,2)

Refrain:

**There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.**

**1 Sometimes I feel discouraged,
and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again. (*Refrain*)**

**2 Don't ever feel discouraged,
for Jesus is your friend,
and if you lack for knowledge,
he'll not refuse to lend. (*Refrain*)**

Invitation to Present Our Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty and merciful God,
from whom comes all that is good,
we praise you for your mercies,
for your goodness that has created us,
your grace that has sustained us,
your discipline that has corrected us,
your patience that has borne with us,
and your love that has redeemed us.
Help us to love you,
and to be thankful for all your gifts
by serving you and delighting to do your will,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING

Sending Hymn

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

#662 (vs. 1,2)

1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies;
Christ, the true, the only light;
Sun of Righteousness, arise;
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.

2 Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return
till thy mercy's beams I see;
till they inward light impart,
cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

Opportunities for Fellowship and Service

Charge and Blessing

The blessing of the holy, triune God—
who was and is and is to come—
first and last,
beginning and end,
Alpha and Omega—
be with you now and always
Go therefore and make disciples.
The Lord is with you always.
Thanks be to God, Amen.

Response

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness

Christ, Be Our Light

#314

Refrain Only

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.