

February 7, 2021

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany



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

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

God has invited us to come.

So we gather.

God has spoken to the world.

So we listen.

God has given us glimpses of grace and mercy.

So we wait and watch, longing for healing, eager for hope.

God has been faithful to all generations.

So we trust. And so we worship God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Gathering Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy

#594

Holy, holy, holy, holy,
holy, holy is our God,
God, the Lord of earth and heaven.

Holy, holy is our God.

Holy, holy, holy, holy,
holy, holy is our God.

God, the Lord of all of history.

Holy, holy is our God.

Who accompanies our people,
who lives within our struggles,
of all the earth and heaven
the one and only Lord.

Blessed are they who in the Lord's name
announce the holy gospel,
proclaiming the good news that
our liberation comes. (Refrain)

Opening Prayer

All glory to you, great God,
for the gift of your Son,

whom you sent to save us.
With singing angels,
let us praise your name,
and tell the earth his story,
that all may believe, rejoice, and bow down,
acknowledging your love;
through 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

We are the people of God, but scripture reminds us that we still sin. We need to confess our failures, knowing that the Lord Jesus intercedes for us with the Father, who freely forgives us, through his infinite goodness and mercy. So let us draw near to God with sincerity and confidence, and pray together.

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, along with our praise, we offer you our confession.
At times we forget what we once knew of your love. Consumed by worry, we forget to trust you. Although we know you made us for a purpose, we choose our own ways. Discouragement seeps into our hearts in the cold of winter and we do not serve you with eagerness. We fail to speak out against injustice in our community. Forgive us. Renew our energy for your purposes. Raise us up on wings of faith. May we walk by your light and not grow weary. May we run and not faint. In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.

Silence is kept for personal confession

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, while it is true that we have all sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. To all who humbly seek the mercy of God I say, in Jesus Christ our sin is forgiven. Be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

Come sing, O church, in joy!
Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has led us
through the ages long!

Refrain:

In bold accord,
come celebrate the journey now
and praise the Lord!

THE WORD

A Time with the Children

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

- ¹ Praise the Lord!
How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.
- ² The Lord builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.
- ³ He heals the brokenhearted,
and binds up their wounds.
- ⁴ He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.
- ⁵ Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.
- ⁶ The Lord lifts up the downtrodden;
he casts the wicked to the ground.
- ⁷ Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre.
- ⁸ He covers the heavens with clouds,
prepares rain for the earth,
makes grass grow on the hills.
- ⁹ He gives to the animals their food,
and to the young ravens when they cry.
- ¹⁰ His delight is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;

¹¹ but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

^{20c} **Praise the Lord!**

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:29-39

²⁹As soon as they 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. ³¹He 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 him 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, he 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." ³⁸He 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.

Sermon

"Who Are You Following?"

Elder Le Quan Turner, M. Div.

Hymn of Unity

The Snow Lay on the Ground

#116

**1 The snow lay on the ground; the stars shone bright,
when Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night.**

Venite adoremus Dominum.

Venite adoremus Dominum.

Venite adoremus Dominum.

Venite adoremus Dominum.

**2 'Twas gentle Mary maid, so young and strong,
who welcomed here the Christ-child with a song.**

She laid him in a stall at Bethlehem;

the ass and oxen shared the roof with them.

Venite adoremus Dominum.

Venite adoremus Dominum.

3 Saint Joseph too was by to tend the child,
to guard him, and protect his mother mild.
The angels hovered round and sang this song:
Venite adoremus Dominum.
Venite adoremus Dominum.
Venite adoremus Dominum.

4 And thus that manger poor became a throne;
for he whom Mary bore was God the Son.
O come, then, let us join the heavenly host
to praise the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Venite adoremus Dominum.
Venite adoremus Dominum.

Together, We Confess Our Faith

The Apostle's Creed (Traditional)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

RESPONDING

Invitation to Present Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory	Come Holy Spirit	#279
Doxology	<i>Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	#606

Prayer of Dedication

Lord Jesus, you called ordinary men and women to come after you and join in the work of God's reign on earth. We offer you our gifts to share in the work you began through them. So bless our gifts, and continue to work through us, so that the world may know your love and grace are still active among us all.
Amen.

Eat this bread; drink this cup;
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread; drink this cup;
trust in me and you will not thirst"

Invitation to The Lord's Table**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.

It is truly right and our greatest joy
to give you thanks and praise,
O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe.
You formed us in your image
and set us in this world to love and serve you.
When we were captives in slavery,
you delivered us to freedom,
and made covenant to be our sovereign God.
When we were stubborn and stiff-necked,
you spoke to us through prophets
who looked for that day
when justice shall triumph
and peace shall reign over all the earth.
Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with the celestial choirs
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

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

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son.
You sent him into this world
to bring freedom to the captives of sin,

and to establish justice for the oppressed.

He came among us as one of us,
taking the lot of the poor,
sharing human suffering,
dying an unjust death.

We rejoice that in his dying and rising again,
you set before us the sure promise of new life,
the certain hope of a heavenly home
where we will sit at table with Christ our host.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,
we take from your creation this bread and this wine
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising,
as we await the day of his coming.

With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you
to be a living and holy sacrifice,
dedicated to your service.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Gracious God,
pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,
that the bread we break
and the cup we bless
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
that we may be one with all who share this feast,
united in ministry in every place.

As this bread is Christ's body for us,
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Strengthen us, O God, in the power of your Spirit
to bring good news to the poor
and loose the chains that bind.

Keep us faithful in your service
until Christ comes in final victory,
and we shall feast with all your saints
in the joy of your eternal realm.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
now and forever.

Amen.

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.**

Breaking the Bread

Communion

*Please partake of the communion elements at home as the participants in
the sanctuary partake.*

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Opportunities for Service and Fellowship

Sending Hymn

Great is Thy faithfulness

#39

**1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain:

**Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

**2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
(Refrain)**

**3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
(Refrain)**

Blessing and Charge

Arise and shine, for your light has come!
The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
Whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God.
**Thanks be to God,
Amen.**

Response

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness

#314

Christ, Be Our Light

Refrain Only

**Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.**

Postlude

Bio- Today we welcome back to the pulpit- Elder Le Quan Turner, M. Div.

Le Quan was born into a family of preachers and teachers of the gospel. At a young age, she made a public confession of her faith and was baptized. She is a Ruling Elder at Westminster Presbyterian and has served as a Seminary Student Intern at Faith Presbyterian (2012-2014) and as the Minister for Community Life at Northminster Presbyterian (2019-2020). Le Quan has served on the Mission Coordination Committee (2017-2019) and the General Presbyter Search Committee (2018-2019). She currently serves on the Leadership Council National Capital Presbytery (2019-present). Le Quan received her Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary.