

St. John's Presbyterian Church

4th Sunday after Epiphany

January 29, 2023
10:30 a.m.



Worship Participants

The Rev. Kent Meads
Elaine York, Commissioned Pastor
Paul Torkelson, Music Director
David Brock, Organist
Rick McElreath, Lay Reader

Office Staff

Maria Winchester, Administrative Assistant
Liz Salas, Financial Secretary

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Website

www.stjohnschurch.org

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3rd Sunday after Epiphany

January 29, 2023

10:30 a.m.

*Please stand in Body or Spirit
BOLD People Response

GATHERING

Welcome (The Rev. Kent Meads)

Announcements

Prelude

Variations on *Mit Freuden Zart*

Linda Ellis Cummings

Call to Worship (Elaine York, Commissioned Pastor)

Leader: the LORD is in His holy temple;

People: the LORD'S throne is in heaven;

Leader: the LORD is righteous.

People: He loves righteous deeds;

All: the upright shall behold His face. (Ps.11)

*Hymn No. 483

Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

—The Presbyterian Hymnal; CCLI# 1761103/One License# 84587

*Call to Confession (Rick McElreath, Lay Reader)

Join me as we confess our sins to God.

*Prayer of Confession

Dear heavenly Father, we have not lived blamelessly and right. We have not lived by Your Word when our words cause pain. Forgive us by the power of Your mercy and through the grace of Christ, so that we might walk in the light of Your love. *(Please continue in silent personal confession.)* **Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

Followers of Jesus, God offers forgiveness to those who turn to Him in true repentance. So, trust in God who breaks the bonds of sin and covers us in His mercy.

*The Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

People: And also with you.

(Please greet one another and exchange signs of peace and reconciliation)

Anthem (Paul Torkelson, Music Director)

Chancel Choir

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BOLD People Response

THE WORD

Prayer Before the Scripture Reading

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 15

¹Lord, who may be a guest in your home?
Who may live on your holy hill?

²Whoever lives a blameless life,
does what is right (or, righteous)

and speaks honestly.

³He does not slander,

or do harm to others,
or insult his neighbor.

⁴He despises a reprobate,
but honors the Lord's loyal followers.

He makes firm commitments
and does not renege on his promise.

⁵He does not charge interest when he
lends his money.
He does not take bribes to testify
against the innocent.

The one who lives like this will never be
shaken. (**NET**)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

¹God, who gets invited to dinner at Your place?
How do we get on Your guest list?

²“Walk straight,
act right,
tell the truth.

³⁻⁴“Don't hurt your friend,
don't blame your neighbor;
despise the despicable.

⁵“Keep your word even when it costs
you, make an honest living,
never take a bribe.

“You'll never get blacklisted
if you live like this.” (**The Message**)

Message

The Big Question & Its Answer
Psalm 15

The Rev. Kent Meads

It is comprised of 3 parts:

- (1) David asks a big question in v 1.
- (2) Followed by his long answer in vv.2-5a,b.
- (3) Concludes with a grand assertion in v. 5c.

The Big Question

Before we consider **the long answer**, we need to distinguish justification and godly living.
What we find in the Bible is 2 kinds of **righteousness**: alien and proper righteousness.

Paul says it plainly in Ephesian 2.8-10

The Long Answer

John Stott notes: "Indeed, no one has perfectly fulfilled this ideal except one man, Jesus Christ." (*Favorite Psalms, 13*)

6 couplets cover the one living in fellowship with God:

character
speech
conduct
values
integrity
and the use of money

A Grand Assertion

*Hymn No. 164

Lord, Who May Dwell Within Your House

—The Presbyterian Hymnal; One License# 199564

Receiving the Morning Offering

Offertory

Gradual for Epiphany 4, from the Gregorian Liturgical Year

Gerald Near

*Doxology

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

—The Presbyterian Hymnal, No. 592; One License# 96892

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.

SENDING

*Hymn No. 376

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

—The Presbyterian Hymnal; CCLI# /One License# 84255

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response No. 68, v.4

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

To God the Father, God the Son,

And Holy Spirit, Three in One,

May every tongue and nation raise

An endless song of thankful praise.

—The Presbyterian Hymnal; CCLI# 1708094/One License# 84269

Postlude

Prelude on *Hyfrydol*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

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