

February 7, 2021 • Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose voice is upon the waters,  
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,  
whose goodness cascades over all creation.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Holy God,

**C: you search us and know us.**

**You are acquainted with all our ways.  
We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—  
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.  
We turn inward, failing to follow  
your outward way of love.  
We distrust those who are not like us.  
We exploit the earth and its resources  
and fail to consider generations to come.  
Forgive us, gracious God,  
for all we have done and left undone.  
Even before the words are on our tongues,  
you know them;  
receive them in your divine mercy.  
Amen.**

P: How vast is God's grace!

Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus,  
our sins are washed away  
and we are claimed as God's own beloved.  
Indeed, we are forgiven.  
In the wake of God's forgiveness,  
we are called to be the beloved community  
living out Christ's justice  
and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

**C: Amen.**

Rise shine you people Christ the Lord has entered  
Our human story God in him is centered  
He comes to us by death and sin surrounded  
With grace unbounded

See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling  
He brings us freedom light and life and healing  
All men and women who by guilt are driven  
Now are forgiven

Come celebrate your banners high unfurling  
Your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling  
To all the world go out and tell the story  
Of Jesus' glory

Tell how the Father sent the Son to save us  
Tell of the Son who life and freedom gave us  
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation  
God's new creation

*Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.*

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## GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
C: **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## A READING FROM ISAIAH 40:21-31

*The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.*

<sup>21</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
Has it not been told you from the beginning?  
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

<sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;  
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,  
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

<sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught,  
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

<sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,  
when he blows upon them, and they wither,  
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

<sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me,  
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

<sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
Who created these?  
He who brings out their host and numbers them,  
calling them all by name;  
because he is great in strength,  
mighty in power,  
not one is missing.

<sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,  
“My way is hidden from the LORD,  
and my right is disregarded by my God”?

<sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.

<sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.

<sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;

<sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

R: Word of God, Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **A READING FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-23**

*God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.*

<sup>16</sup>If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! <sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

<sup>19</sup>For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

R: Word of God, Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **A READING FROM MARK 1:29-39**

P: The holy Gospel according to Mark.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.*

<sup>29</sup>As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And 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.

<sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup>He 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." <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Amy Stewart**

**HYMN**

***We Come to You for Healing, Lord***

**#617**

**We come to you for healing Lord  
Of body mind and soul  
And pray that by your Spirit's touch  
We may again be whole**

**As once you walked through ancient streets  
And reached toward those in pain  
Come risen Christ among us still  
With pow'r to heal again**

**You touch us through physicians' skills  
Through nurses' gifts of care  
And through the love of faithful friends  
Who lift our lives in prayer**

**When nights are long with wakefulness  
Through days when strength runs low  
Grant us your gift of patience Lord  
Your calming peace to know**

**We come to you O loving Lord  
In our distress and pain  
In trust that through our nights and days  
Your grace will heal sustain**

*Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923*

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## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living 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.**

## **PRAYERS**

P: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

P: Let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

P: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

*Offerings can be made online or mailed to the church office. Thank you for your continuous support to our ministry during this time.*

## **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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

P: God the creator strengthen you;  
Jesus the beloved fill you;  
and the Holy Spirit the comforter † keep you in peace.

C: Amen.

## HYMN

*God, Whose Almighty Word*

#673

God whose almighty word  
Chaos and darkness heard  
And took their flight  
Hear us we humbly pray  
And where the gospel day  
Sheds not its glorious ray  
Let there be light

Christ who once came to bring  
On your redeeming wing  
Healing and sight  
Health to the troubled mind  
Sight where illusions blind  
Oh now to humankind  
Let there be light

Spirit of truth and love  
Life-giving holy dove  
Speed forth your flight  
Move on the water's face  
Bearing the lamp of grace  
And in earth's darkest place  
Let there be light

Holy and blessed three  
Glorious Trinity  
Wisdom Love Might  
Boundless as ocean's tide  
Rolling in fullest pride  
Through the earth far and wide  
Let there be light

*Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825, alt.*

## **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## **SENDING MUSIC**

**Vocal Leaders:** *Ernst Oswald and Jamie De Geer*

**Musician:** *Marcus De Geer*

**Reader:** *Ariana Karst*

**AV:** *Andrew Leach*

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