



## Order of Worship

Second Sunday after Epiphany

**January 16, 2022**

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### **Call to worship** (*Psalm 46*)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**Come, behold the works of the Lord;  
Be still, and know that I am God!**

### **Call to confession**

Let us humbly approach God's throne of grace to confess our sins and present ourselves honestly before our Savior.

### **Prayer of confession** (*Based on 1 Corinthians 12:1-11*)

You have blessed us with a variety of gifts, Holy God, but we are reluctant to share. We hoard what is most valuable and make excuses for ourselves when called to share. The Spirit has blessed each of us uniquely, but we hide our light under a bushel and fail to rise to our potential. God, forgive us and embolden us. Help us to claim our gifts and put them to good use. Amen.

### **Assurance of pardon**

Our God is a loving God, full of mercy. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Believe in this forgiveness, be at peace, and respond in grateful service. Amen.

### **Prayer for illumination**

Holy God, we need the guidance of your word. Help us be honest with ourselves and with you in this sacred moment of proclamation. Amen.

### **Scripture readings**

### **Sermon**



**Affirmation of faith** *(from A Brief Statement of Faith)*

**We trust in Jesus Christ,  
fully human, fully God.**

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
preaching good news to the poor  
and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed  
and blessing the children,  
healing the sick  
and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts,  
forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,  
Jesus was crucified,  
suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.**

**God raised this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

**Call for the offering**

Our God blesses us with extravagance and abundance.  
Grateful for all we have been given, let us present our  
tithes and offerings to the Lord.

**Prayer of dedication**

Just as Jesus turned gallons of water into wine, we too  
know God's extravagant blessings. Take these gifts we give  
today and bless them, Holy God, that others may know your  
abundance and live whole and healthy lives. Amen.



### **Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer** *(Based on Psalm 46)*

God, our refuge and strength,

Shelter us from life's storms, from pandemic pain, from heartache and loss. Strengthen us to withstand the worry, the exhausting but necessary work, the temptations to stray from you toward idols who only offer fleeting comfort. Hold us close, like the mother hen who covers her chicks with her wing, so we can know we are yours, feel your steady presence, and know your peace.

God, you are in the midst of the city, the nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter. Help us to know your presence among us, God, comfort us with the strength of your guidance in a world experiencing so much pain and upheaval. May our world's leaders walk humbly and practice faithful discernment, surrounding themselves with honest truth-tellers who will hold them to your ethic of love and justice.

Come, let us behold the works of God, let us be still and know our God.

God, help us be still. Help us forget about the work still left undone, the chores piling up, the deadlines approaching. Help us to rest here, in your presence. Help us behold you and belong to you. We cannot continue without the rest you provide. Help us embrace this stillness as your great gift.

United as the Body of Christ we lift these prayers to you, Savior God. Hear us now, as we pray the prayer Christ taught us by saying together, **"Our Father ..."**



### **Charge and benediction**

God's grace is extravagant and abundant,  
Know this grace in your life  
Share this grace with others.

May God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,  
bless you this day and forevermore. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott  
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