

Order of Worship

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 23, 2022

Call to worship *(From Psalm 19)*

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul,
making wise the simple.

**The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart,
enlightening the eyes.**

The ordinances of the Lord are to be more desired than gold.

They are sweeter than honey, the drippings of the honeycomb.

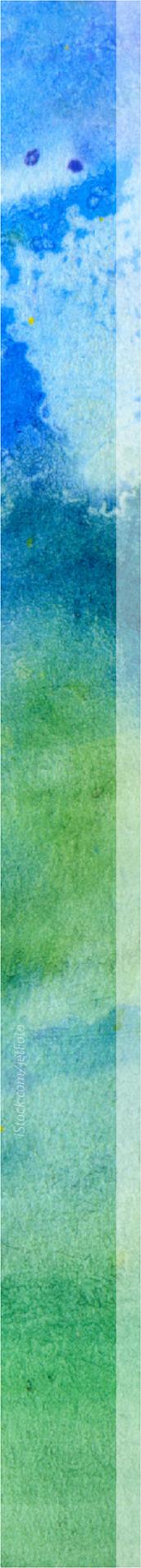
Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of all of our
hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer.

Call to confession

In this season of Epiphany, we are reminded that our God is
constantly revealing God's self to us, that we may see and know
our Creator. Let us honor and accept this gift by opening our
whole hearts through confession.

Prayer of confession *(Based on Luke 4:14-21)*

Christ, you came to share good news with the poor and
oppressed. You came to release the captives and grant sight
to the blind. We, like the crowds that surrounded you at the
beginning of your ministry, are fickle. We praise you when your
words comfort us and deny your good news means that we need
to sacrifice something. Forgive us, God, for our wayward and
fleeting love. We are blind to the true implications of your gospel.
Help us to see that we may join in your proclamation of good
news. *Time for silent prayer and reflection. Amen.*



Assurance of pardon *(Based on Romans 8:34, 2 Corinthians 5:17)*

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, and Christ prays for us.

In Christ, you are forgiven; you are beloved; you are seen. Hold on to this truth.

Prayer for illumination

Creator God, your Word is a gift. It is our inheritance as the people of God. We give thanks, and we ask, Holy Spirit, that you move in this place. Open our hearts and eyes to hear what we need to hear, to know what we ought to do, and to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Scripture readings

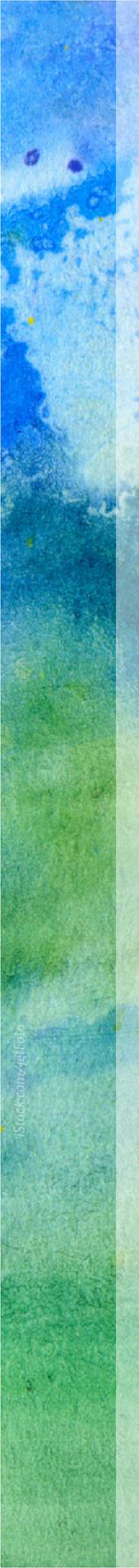
Sermon

Affirmation of faith *(Nicene Creed)*

Let us confess our faith.
We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

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On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Call for the offering (*Matthew 10:8*)

In response to our confession and pardon, to the Word being spoken, to the reminder of our communal faith, let us offer God some gifts from our lives. For it is written, "Freely you have received, freely give."

Prayer of dedication

Almighty God, we offer these gifts to you. May you multiply them for your glory that they be a blessing to others. We pray a special blessing on all whom these monetary gifts touch. May they know your love. Amen.



Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Almighty God, whether it is through a cold winter sunray, the flavor of an orange, the hug of a friend, or the Bible, you are constantly revealing yourself to us in the expected and unexpected, ordinary and extraordinary. We are humbled with gratitude, that you might want to know us and that you might invite us to know you. We give you thanks. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Compassionate God, we pray for the nations. We pray for the tensions between Russia and Ukraine. We pray for the people of Afghanistan. We pray for Kazakhstan. Where there is violence, we pray for peace. Where there is injustice, we pray for justice. We pray for the leaders of our nation, including Joe, [insert names of state governor, city mayor, and other officials]. Bless them with wisdom that comes from you and trusted advisors. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

God of unity, we pray for the church universal. In our diversity, may we continue to be the one body of Christ. May we focus on what binds us. May we lift each other up. May we take the beginning of your public ministry seriously and to care for the poor and oppressed. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Creator, we pray for the earth we live on. It cries out from years of abuse. We pray for those in Kentucky and Colorado and all over the world who are recovering from tornados, fires, and other natural disasters. Shake us from our slumber. Empower us to be good caretakers of all that you've entrusted to us, including land, sea, and creatures. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Healing God, we pray for those in our lives who are sick - with illnesses, with loneliness, with anger, with fear. We pray for them by name [pause so that congregants may say names or the speaker may list names from the congregation's prayer paper]. There is so much we do not know about prayer. But we do know that you hear us. Bless these people with comfort, with people who embody your love. May they know peace. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray all these things in and through Christ our Savior who taught us to pray saying, **"Our Father ..."**



Charge and benediction

As we walk through this season of Epiphany, go from here knowing that God is with you and seeks to reveal God's goodness to you in both small and incredible ways. May our Lord bless you with the eyes to see the ways God loves you this week, for you are incredibly loved. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Rose Schrott Taylor,
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