



Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
February 2, 2025

Call to worship (based on 1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

Love is patient.

Love is kind.

Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.

Love does not insist on its own way.

Love is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing.

Love rejoices in the truth.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends.

Let us worship the Lord who loves us without boundaries.

Call to confession (based on Psalm 71:1-6)

The Lord is our hope and our trust,
our refuge and our fortress.

With confidence born out of faith
in God's power to save and deliver us,
let us confess our sin.

Prayer of confession

Lord, we confess that we doubt your capacity to work through us. We hold on to fears that we are unworthy to speak your words, so we stay silent even as your Spirit pulls at our tongues. We struggle to fathom the wholeness of your claim over us, so we ignore the light of your love as it emerges in the dark places of our lives. We seek refuge in temporary towers, and are numb to the grasp of cruelty.

Forgive us. Help us to trust you, to lean upon you, to speak your word to a weary world and accept the completeness of your loving claim on our lives.





Assurance of pardon (based on 1 Corinthians 13:7)

Hear the good news: Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. We know this love through Jesus Christ, and by this love, we know that we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

God has poured out love upon us, and we have received forgiveness for our sins. We can now live in peace! May mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

Prayer for illumination (inspired by Groundhog Day: February 2, 2025)

God of all days holy, as a groundhog emerges from its winter dwelling and assesses the light, may your Spirit emerge through our hearts to assess these readings. In hearing these words, regardless of the accuracy of our interpretation or the length of winter's frozen clutch, may we be transformed by your loving presence and reminded that we are your people. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith (excerpt from The Second Helvetic Confession, edited for inclusion)

[We believe] faith [is] efficacious and active through love. It also quiets the conscience and opens a free access to God, so that we may draw near to [God] with confidence and may obtain from [God] what is useful and necessary. The same [faith] keeps us in the service we owe to God and our neighbor, strengthens our patience in adversity, fashions and makes a true confession, and in a word, brings forth good fruit of all kinds, and good works.

Call for the offering (based on 1 Corinthians 13:7-8)

For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

All that is, all that was, and all there will be belongs to God. Let us now return to God in part what is God's in whole.

Prayer of dedication (based on Jeremiah 1:4-10)

Holy One, you are the giver of our lives. You know us completely, and you accept from us no weak excuses. Take these gifts, offered from our labors, our commitments, and our collections of interest. Transform them from temporal potential into your love at work in this tired world that thirsts for your Word. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer (inspired by Luke 4:21-30)

God, you are hope in hopeless situations, love amid loveless treatment, and presence in the deepest loneliness. Hear the desperate prayers of your people for this world, for our neighbors, and for ourselves as we call





on you, God our sovereign, hear our prayer.

A time to share the people's prayers using the call and response, "God our sovereign, hear our prayer."

Lord, you are the fulfilment of your Word. Hear our prayer this morning and do not turn your face from us in our time of need. We pray these things in your name, by your Spirit, and unified in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, who taught his followers to pray saying, "**Our Father...**"

Charge and benediction

Love God,
Love yourself,
Love your neighbor.
Do not be afraid, for the Lord is with you.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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Liturgy written by Walter Canter
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