

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 5, 2023

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Merciful God, what no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, you have prepared for those who love you and revealed to us through the gift of your Spirit. You have sent us in Christ not only the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that comes from you, that we may know and understand the bountiful gifts you give us. Hear now our worship as we interpret spiritual things to those who are spiritual. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

"Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts"

arr. Anna Laura Page

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Leader: God comes into a world filled with uncertainties and darkness.

People: God seeks out the voids of belief and conviction.

Leader: God embraces the wounded and broken.

People: God knocks down the walls of division and strife.

Leader: God is the candle shining in the darkness of our days.

People: God is the light of our lives.

Leader: God is the one who makes all things new.

People: Praise be to God, now and forevermore!

***Hymn**

"Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak"

#722

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession** (*in unison*)

It is true that we break your commandments, God of our lives. Much worse, we break your heart when we point the finger at those who are different from us; when we gossip about our friends and neighbors; when we think everything is all about us.

Forgive us, Loving God, we pray. We long to know your ways, so open our ears to hear those words we always ignore. We search for you each day, so open our eyes to your wonders, that we may see them anew. We would believe in your promises, so fill our hearts with the presence of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. (Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: God will show us the way to God's realm. Gracious, merciful, and righteous is our God of salvation!

People: God rebuilds our lives, repairs our mistakes, fills our emptiness with hope and joy. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

***Response**

“Gloria Patri”

#581

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children's Sermon

First Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:13-20

Choir Anthem “The Gift of Love”

Hal Hopson, 1972

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
But not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.
Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control; our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed. Amen.

Second Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“God’s Wisdom”

Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

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. 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.

Invitation to Offering

***Response**

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (v. 6)

#108

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

(We will be receiving communion by coming forward to one of the two stations on each side of the communion table. Please exit the pew to the center aisle and return to your pew from the outside aisles. An elder or deacon will be available to bring communion to those who wish to remain seated. Gluten-free bread can be found on the communion table.)

***Invitation to the Lord's Table**

***Hymn of Invitation**

“I Come with Joy”

#515

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: May the God of the Table be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: This is the fast God chooses for us as we come to the Feast,

People: that we empty our hearts in service, so they may be filled again.

Leader: This is the way God offers to us,

People: We will sing our praises as we journey to the realm of hope and love.

Leader: When you came proclaiming creation ... in glad shouts of joy:

People: Holy, holy, holy are you, God who shows the way.

Creation joins in praises to you.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who knows your mind.

Hosanna in the highest!

Leader: He came proclaiming ... we trust in that faith which is mysterious:

People: Christ died, showing us the way to death;

Christ was raised, showing us the way to new life;

Christ will come, to show us the way to your heart.

Leader: Here at the Table of grace ... Holy in One. Amen.

Prayers of the People and 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.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

God of grace, you invite us to your table and welcome us as part of your family. You feed us with your body and satisfy our deepest hunger. We thank you for these gifts. Now send us out into the world by the power of your Spirit, that we may be your witnesses, sharing the life-giving news of the gospel. Amen.

The Sending of God's People

*Closing Hymn "Help Us Accept Each Other" #754

*Charge and Blessing

*Congregational Response

"We Are the Church"



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*Postlude "Lord of Light, Your Name Outshining" arr. Charles Callahan

Pastors: Rev. Désirée Youngblood
Dr. Mark A. Johnson

Liturgist: Cherie Watters

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

Acolyte: Devin Griggs

The liturgist for the month of February is Cherie Watters. Cherie & Steve have been residents of London since 1987, and members of the church since about 1998. Cherie is the church office manager. You can find her there Monday – Friday from 8-4:00. Cherie loves nature and animals. Many of you have met Finn, her long-haired German Shepherd. She thoroughly enjoys her grandchildren (the oldest is 18, and the youngest is 2-1/2). In her spare time, Cherie loves to read Nora Roberts and David Baldacci books, and to do research on her family genealogy.