



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God
January 22, 2023

The Third Sunday after Epiphany

**Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

Prelude on *Rhosymedre* (Hymn 534)

arr. R. Vaughan Williams

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

For everyone stuck in darkness: Don't you know the light is dawning?

The morning has come again!

Can't you feel God's light on your face and in your soul?

This is a brand-new day!

So wake up! Embrace the light, shout and sing for joy!

Let us worship this blazing God of light and love.

*HYMN 474 (V.1-4)

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright

O splendor of God's glory bright,
From light eternal bringing light;
Thou light of life, light's living spring,
True day, all days illumining:

Come, Holy Sun of heavenly love,
Shower down Thy radiance from above,
And to our inward hearts convey
The Holy Spirit's cloudless ray.

O joyful be the passing day
With thoughts as clear as morning's ray,
With faith like noon-tide shining bright,
Our souls unshadowed by the night.

O Lord, with each returning morn
Thine image to our hearts is born;
O may we ever clearly see
Our Savior and our God in Thee!

WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation –
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life –
of whom shall I be afraid?

I am still confident of this:

I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord;

be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

Grace, mercy and peace to you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; the Lord is the stronghold of my life. Amen!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of our light and our salvation, sometimes we prefer darkness, we hide in the shadows. We hide from self-reflection. We hide from accountability. We hide from you. You call us out into the light of kindness, compassion and courage. It is hard to step out and respond to your call. We forget you give us all we need to shine. Forgive our fear. Forgive our aversion to the light. Forgive our unresponsiveness to your call. Forgive our willful ignorance to the Way. Help us to know deep in our souls that you are our light and our salvation, our joy and our wonder, our very life.

Silent Prayer

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Our God of light and love hears us. Know that this God of light wraps us in comforting arms, lifts us from the darkness of our guilt and sin, and forgives. Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen. Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 4:12-23

SERMON

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

ANTHEM

Here I Am, Lord

The Chancel Choir; Anita DeChellis, soprano

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them, they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My word to them. Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them, My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Beloved children of God, too often we see the world through a lens of scarcity. We look at all the things we do not have or wish for something bigger and better. And yet, our stories of faith tell us that the smallest things often become enormous when placed in God's hands. And so, you are invited to bring your "little" and watch how God can do great things to bless the entire community.

Please leave your offering in the box at the front of the sanctuary or make your gifts online or via mail.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy and righteous God, we offer our gifts with humble hearts, knowing the need in our world is great and our gifts alone will not be enough. But we offer our gifts in hope that you will bless them, multiply them, and use them to help fulfill your purpose revealed in Jesus Christ, Savior of us all. Amen.

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN 726 (V.1-5) GLORY TO GOD Will You Come and Follow Me

“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”

“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?”

“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”

“Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where you love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

*BENEDICTION

Go forth bathed in the light and love of God.
Go forth to join with Jesus to proclaim the good news of this love and light.
Go forth empowered by the Spirit to live with courage, kindness, compassion and conviction!

The flowers are offered today in loving memory of Nadine Snyder, January 22, 1968 – August 26, 2020.

Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

The Chancel Choir

Noralee Manzek, Liturgist

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Pat Koefoed, Luke McGloughlin

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Matthew 4:12-23

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

‘Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.’ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.’ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.