



# First Presbyterian

## CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God  
January 23, 2022  
The Third Sunday after Epiphany

### WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

Blessed Jesus, At Your Word (Hymn 454)

Dupré

ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 51

May your love and mercy surround us today, O Lord.

**Cleanse and refresh us from every burden and sin.**

Let your joy and gladness be born in us,

**and the power of your Spirit make us new.**

Have mercy upon us, O God,

**and let your Spirit lead us in truth and righteousness. Amen.**

HYMN No. 403 (V.1-3)

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged:  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Can we find a friend so faithful,  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge –  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,  
Thou wilt find a solace there.

### **WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD**

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Jesus, cleanser of temples and souls, look deep within our hearts and our lives, and clear away all that holds us back. May our minds, spirits and bodies be a Temple that is open to Your presence: and may our words and our actions be responsive to Your grace and truth. We pray that this church community will be committed in seeking to do what is right and just, so that all that we do may reveal Your love.**

*In a moment of silence, we sit before God and name those things for which we seek Your cleansing and healing, so that we may be more faithful followers.*

*Silence*

#### WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”  
-John 3:16

Believe with all your heart that you are loved and forgiven.  
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 READING

John 2:13-22

#### SERMON

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ the head and cornerstone,  
Chosen of the Lord and precious,  
Binding all the church in one;  
Holy Zion's help forever,  
And our confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call You,  
Come, O Lord of Hosts today;  
With Your wonted loving-kindness  
Hear Your people as they pray,  
And Your fullest benediction  
Shed within its walls away.

Here bestow on all Your servants  
What they ask of You to gain,  
What they gain from You forever  
With the blessed to retain,  
And hereafter in Your glory  
Evermore with You to reign.

Laud and honor to the Father,  
Laud and honor to the Son,  
Laud and honor to the Spirit,  
Ever three and ever one;  
One in might and one in glory  
While unending ages run.

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of revelation, we remember the many needs of your church and your world:

Cleanse the church, O Lord, of all that detracts and distracts us from authentic worship of you.  
Lead us into deeper relationship with you and in community with one another.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Cleanse creation, O Lord, of all the harm we have inflicted upon it and lead us into better stewardship of the earth and its resources.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Cleanse the nations, O Lord, of injustice and violence and lead our leaders into ways of peace and reconciliation.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Cleanse our hearts, O Lord, of prejudice and judgment and lead us to look upon our neighbors and see your image.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Cleanse our bodies, O Lord, of disease and pain and lead us to health and wholeness.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Cleanse our words and witness, O Lord, of divisiveness and lead us to that great day when we will join with all the saints in glorifying you.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Guide us on the path of goodness and grace, O God, that the radiance and power of your Holy Spirit working in the world will bring healing to individuals' hearts and to our collective spirits. Amen.

#### 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.**

#### HYMN 394 (V. 1-3)

#### There Is a Balm in Gilead

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.

There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged,  
And think my work's in vain,  
But then the Holy Spirit  
Revives my soul again.

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.

There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Don't ever feel discouraged,  
For Jesus is your friend,  
And if you lack for knowledge  
He'll not refuse to lend.

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.

There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

If you cannot preach like Peter,  
If you cannot pray like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus  
And say, "He died for all."

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.

There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

## DEDICATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

*The Psalms urge us to give thanks to God at all times, for everything God has provided. In gratitude, we offer to God a portion of what God has given to us. Please make your gifts online or via mail.*

## RESPONSE

Doxology

**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.**

## WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

Be Thou My Vision (Hymn 339)

Slane

### *There is a Balm in Gilead*

*In the Old Testament, Gilead was the name of the mountainous area east of the Jordan River. This region was known for having skillful physicians and an ointment made from the gum of a tree particular to that area. Many believed that this balm had miraculous powers to heal the body. In the book of Jeremiah, God tells the people of Israel that though many believe in the mysterious healing power of this balm, they can't trust in those powers for spiritual healing or as a relief of their oppression. In the New Testament, God answers the suffering of His people by sending us Jesus Christ. Jesus becomes our "balm in Gilead".*

*The flowers on the communion table are given by Gloria Snyder to the glory of God and in loving memory of Nadine and Heather.*

~\*~\*~

### Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

Linda Martin, Liturgist

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

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## **John 2:13-22**

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.