

January 26, 2025
3rd Sunday after Epiphany
Worship Sunday



Leading Worship Today:

Pastor: Brian Entz

Lay Leader: Ashton Olsen

Accompanist: Ralph Johansen & Worship Team

*Please read along with all **Bold** text
All are invited to stand when there is an **

Larger Print: Please see an usher if you would like larger print hymns and/ or bulletin.

Children's Bulletins: Please see an usher if you are interested in a children's bulletin.

PRELUDE

As the Deer

Martin Nystrom, arr. Ken Medema

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*In the stillness of the quiet, if we listen, we can hear the whisper in the heart giving strength to
weakness, courage to fear, hope to despair.*

- Howard Thurman

GATHERING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 19

The Heavens declare your glory, O God
and the firmament shows your handiwork.

One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.

Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight,
O God, our strength and redeemer.

*OPENING SONGS

Sanctuary (Lord Prepare Me)

Lord prepare me
To be a sanctuary
Pure and holy
Tried and true
With thanksgiving
I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You

As For Me

Verse 1

Your love oh Lord is strength to my soul
Hope for tomorrow it won't let go
Your presence is the joy of my life
To You I lift my eyes

Chorus

As for me and my house we will serve the Lord
We will sing of Your love forevermore
As for me and my house we will serve the Lord
Serve the Lord

Verse 2

Your word alone a lamp to my feet
A light to my path as You're leading me
Your ways oh Lord are higher than mine
To You I lift my eyes

Chorus

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The grace of God overflows for us through Jesus Christ who came to save us from sin. Trusting in the wideness of God's mercy let us make our confession.

Embodied God, we confess that we have rent mind from matter, been deceived into viewing our bodies as tools for productivity as opposed to sacred beings worthy of love and honor. In our spiritualities, we have exalted the invisible over the physical. In our daily routines, we have not cared for our bodies well. And that neglect has rippled out toward the bodies of others in our midst. Forgive us, God, and restore in us a sacred attunement to our whole selves - minds, blood, breath, the hands that grip these pages. With your divine help, may we never abandon ourselves, or others, again. Amen.

As water is poured into the font remember your baptism and that in these waters you are named as one of God's beloved and joined to Christ forever.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. Therefore I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free!

Alleluia, Amen.

*RESPONSE

#447 We Are Forgiven

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

*SHARING THE PEACE

Therefore, since we have been made righteous through Christ's faithfulness, we have peace with God. Let us also share peace with one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

The people may exchange with their neighbors, by words or gesture, signs of peace and reconciliation.

WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Pour out, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us, that with humility we might understand and with courage follow your word for us today. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 61:1-4 (NRSV)

1The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;

he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
2to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
3to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
4They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a (NRSV)

12For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 14Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20As it is, there are many members, yet one body. 21The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; 24whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, 25that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. 26If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. 27Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 28And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. 29Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31But strive for the greater gifts.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SONG OF PRAISE

This is Jesus

Verse 1

Night of wonder still and silent
Heaven's brilliance from above
Light of glory pierced the darkness
Mercy pierced my heart with love

Verse 2

Oh the mystery who could fathom
God would leave His Holy throne
For a manger for a sinner
For us all to be His own

Chorus

Chorus

This is Jesus King of glory
Here to rescue from the fall
Son of God who comes to save us
Prince of peace and Lord of All

Bridge

Rejoice He is with us
Rejoice Hope is here

Chorus 2x

GOSPEL READING

Luke 4:14-21 (NRSV)

14Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. 15He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

16When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 18"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, 19to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." 20And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Rev. Brian Entz

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERING

Praise and Alleluia!

Larson

*"Let us present ourselves to God as those who have been delivered from death to life."
To contribute to our mission and ministry online, please scan the QR code.*



*PRAISE REFRAIN

#710 We Lift Our Voices

We lift our voices, we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices; we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering; we are an offering.

*OFFERING PRAYER

We believe

- that God has revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;
- that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged
- that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;
- that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;
- that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream;
- that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged;
- that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We come before you O God in gratitude for your loving kindness and mercy. Continue to build up in us a great love for you and the whole of your creation and give us courage to follow in the way of Jesus your Son.

God of our salvation, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church...

Let us be a sign of your promised realm and make us ready to meet our Savior Christ when he comes again in glory. Strengthen us in our faith and give us courage to extend the mercy we have been shown to others.

God of our salvation, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world...

Make a way in the wilderness of this world. Bring justice and equality to every land and let all creatures know your saving love. Bring peace to every corner of the world, especially Ukraine and Russia, Israel, Palestine, and Lebanon. We pray for those, especially children, who are in harm's way, who have lost loved ones, homes, houses of worship, schools, and so much more. We pray for those who are working for peace and calling for an end to violence. Be a rock and shield for those facing oppression and hate, and injustice. Bring relief and renewal to all people and places devastated by natural disasters. Help us to seek the common good of all your creation and to work for justice and peace at home and abroad.

God of our salvation, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our community...

May friendship, humility, and compassion grow in us and all the people of Buffalo. Grant faith, hope, and love to all the churches of our community that they and we might heartily love you and neighbor. Help us all to be good neighbors to all people regardless of our differences.

God of our salvation, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our loved ones...

Let your tender mercy shine on them. Give comfort to those at death's door and to those in grief.
Give your healing and mercy to those in need, especially...

God of our salvation, **hear our prayer.**

Prepare your way in us, O God, that we may rejoice and be glad when your reign of glory comes;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray saying...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

SENDING

*CLOSING SONG

Our God

Verse 1

Water You turned into wine
Opened the eyes of the blind
There's no one like You None like You

Verse 2

Into the darkness
You shine Out of the ashes we rise
There's no one like You None like You

Chorus

Our God is greater
Our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is healer
Awesome in power our God our God

Repeat Verse 2

Chorus 2x

*BLESSING AND SENDING

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

The Blessing

Verse

The Lord bless you
And keep you
Make his face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn his
Face toward you
And give you peace

Chorus

Amen Amen Amen

POSTLUDE

God Leads Us Along

arr. Philip Keveren

Loving all People, Living our Faith, and Following Jesus

WORSHIP NOTES

The Call to Worship is taken from The Saint Helena Psalter, produced by The Order of Saint Helena.
The Prayer of Confession was slightly adapted from one by Cole Arthur Riley, from her book Black Liturgies. Published by Convergent Books in 2024.

All other liturgy comes/is adapted from the Book of Common Worship (2018) or is written in house.

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As For Me CCLI Song # 7168696 Chris Tomlin | Jason Ingram | Pat Barrett© 2021 Capitol CMG Genesis; Capitol CMG Paragon; Housefires Sounds; S. D. G. Publishing; Vamos Publishing; Jingram Tunes; So Essential Tunes

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Meeting & Potluck: Please join us for a Sunday Dinner Potluck in the fellowship hall following the BPC Annual Meeting TODAY. Enjoy yummy food, energizing conversation and great fellowship with other BPC family members and friends. See you then!

How can we pray for you?

Along with the blue prayer request cards found in the pews you can also submit prayer requests on the BPC website. Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to be taken directly to the prayer request form. All prayer requests go directly to Pastor Brian.



BPC Prayer List:

- Milla Spike, Kevin's granddaughter
- Lois Lindstrom
- Theresa
- Madree
- Jim, Elaine Thole's brother, following a diagnosis
- Donna, a friend of Lana Kopplin, who has cancer
- Jill, the niece of Al DeBellis, who has terminal illness
- Jonathon, a friend of Barb & Larry Janski
- Shannon, Virginia's former daughter-in-law
- Daniel Elliot
- Erva Hance
- Barb and Tom Stone
- Jan Brown, early morning Women of Faith
- Dennis Dietz, Virginia's friend
- Rochelle Tandrian, Angela's daughter
- Jimm and Jodie Underwood, Lanny & Shirley's son-in-law and daughter
- Brittany Daniels
- John and Charlotte Collins
- Julie Long and family following the death of her cousin.

For peace in Ukraine and Russia, Israel/Palestine, Congo, and around the world.

For our neighbor congregations in Buffalo and for the congregations of our presbytery.

Upcoming This Week

Today

9:30a Worship
10:30a CCC: Annual Meeting & Potluck

Monday

Tuesday

9:00a Crafty Ladies
9:00a Men's Breakfast at Forget Me Not Cafe

Wednesday

7:00p Adult Choir

Thursday

7:30a People of Faith
10:00a Women of Faith
5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

9:30a Worship with Communion
10:30a CCC: Love Jeopardy
11:30a Worship & Music Committee Meeting

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Ralph Johansen, Organist
Mike Quady, Clerk of Session
Christy Wood, Administrative Assistant