

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 31, 2021

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

We Gather in God's Name . . .

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

(for silent prayer during the prelude)

God of compassion, you have shown us in Christ that your love is never-ending. Enable us to love you with all our hearts and to love one another as Christ loved us. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.¹ Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP (BASED ON PSALM 111)

One: Praise the Lord!

All: I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

One: Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.

All: The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

One: He sent redemption to his people;

All: he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name.

One: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.

All: His praise endures forever. Let us worship God!

HYMN OF PRAISE: “Many and Great, O God, Are Thy Things”

#271

Many and great, O God, are Thy things, Maker of earth and sky; Thy hands have set the heavens with stars, Thy fingers spread the mountains and plains, Lo, at Thy word the waters were formed; Deep seas obey Thy voice.

Grant unto us communion with Thee, Thou star abiding One;

Come unto us and dwell with us: With Thee are found the gifts of life. Bless us with life that has no end, Eternal life with Thee.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

When the Lord, our God, appeared before Moses at Mount Horeb, the Israelites feared God. They pleaded with God that they not hear the voice of God directly nor experience the great fire and other effects for they feared death. Let us come before the Almighty humbly confessing our sins.

*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, your power is unlimited and unchecked. Your knowledge is infinite, and your wisdom only known to you. We, your creation, can forget your power, your knowledge, and your wisdom and assume that there is none greater than any one of us. Forgive our lack of humility. Help us to understand our limitations. Grow us in your wisdom, and show us your mercy. In the name of the one who displayed your power and wisdom on earth, Jesus the Messiah. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

When the Israelites feared God and wanted not to hear the voice of the Lord our God anymore or even to see his power displayed in great fire and other effects, he accommodated them by raising up prophets from among them. Come humbly before God, and know that he will show you similar mercy as he has through our Lord Jesus. Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

. . . to Proclaim God's Word

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 18:15-20 **p. 174**

EPISTLE READING 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 **p. 171**

***GOSPEL READING** Mark 1:21-28 **p. 35**

SERMON “Knowledge and Love” Rev. Andy Smothers

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

*CONFESSION OF FAITH *Heidelberg Catechism* (Question 81-82)

One: Who should come to the Lord's table?

Many: Those who are displeased with themselves because of their sins, but who nevertheless trust that their sins are pardoned and that their remaining weakness is covered by the suffering and death of Christ, and who also desire more and more to strengthen their faith and to lead a better life. Hypocrites and those who are unrepentant, however, eat and drink judgment on themselves.

One: Should those be admitted to the Lord's Supper who show by what they profess and how they live that they are unbelieving and ungodly?

Many: No, that would dishonor God's covenant and bring down God's wrath upon the entire congregation. Therefore, according to the instruction of Christ and his apostles, the Christian church is duty-bound to exclude such people, by the official use of the keys of the kingdom, until they reform their lives.

. . . to Give Thanks to God . . .

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (IN UNISON)

Gracious God, long ago you spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days you have spoken to us by your Son. Your Son came and astounded others by his teachings as he taught with authority and not as the scribes of that day. He healed and cast out demons. He performed many miracles to draw humanity close to you. In our day, we are blessed with your scriptures that testify to him and his work. In thankfulness, we offer a portion of what you have given us for the work of your church. Amen.

... and to Be Sent in God's Name.

CLOSING HYMN: "Be Thou My Vision" #339

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art Thou my best thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise, Thou mine inheritance, now and always: Thou and Thou only, first in my heart, Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art. Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word; I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord; Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wed. Feb. 3 Evening Prayer 6:30 PM

Welcome to worship this morning! As we continue to social distance, we will not be offering child care for a time. Feel free to keep your children in worship — even if they're a bit noisy. You're also welcome to take them into the coatroom.

Our thanks go to our lay reader Karen Burditt, and pianist Juanita Rodriquez.

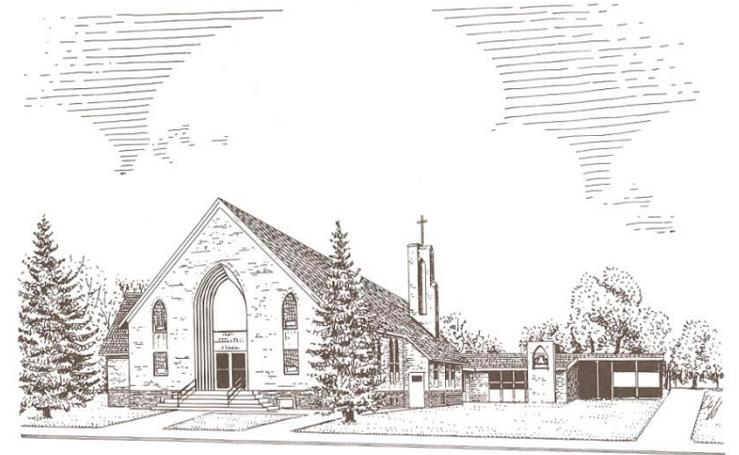
The Session has called our **January annual meeting for today, January 31st after worship** for the purpose of receiving annual reports, voting on new by-laws of the congregation, electing board members for Horizon Lodge, and expressing support for the church budget. **Annual Report** booklets are available in the narthex.

The cans for **Intermountain Children's Home** need to be turned into the office by the end of the month. Arrangements will be made to have them delivered to Helena.

Presbyterian Women will be having a meeting **Thursday, February 11th at 10:30 AM** in the Fellowship Hall.

Last week, combined giving was **\$1,333.00**. In order to meet expenses, we need to average **\$2,588.00** per week.

First Presbyterian Church



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¹ *Book of Common Worship* (1993), 208-9.