

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 30, 2022

Fourth Sunday after Epiphanyⁱ

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. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 71)*

One: In you, O Lord, we take refuge;

All: in you, O Lord, we are never put to shame.

One: Your righteousness can deliver us;

All: only your righteousness can save us.

One: You are a rock of refuge,

All: a strong fortress to save us.

One: You, O Lord are our hope,

All: our trust, O Lord, from our youth in faith.

One: We lift our praise continually to you;

All: let us worship God!

*CALL TO CONFESSION *(from 1 Corinthians 13)*

The Apostle Paul defines what love is. It's a lofty expectation to love God with our entire being and to love our neighbor as ourself. Let us confess where we have fallen far short of the love that God requires.

*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(30 seconds)*

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(from 1 Corinthians 13)*

Loving God, in Jesus the Messiah, you demonstrate what love is — even the giving of one's life for people who have wronged you so immensely. First, we pray, that you would forgive where we have wronged you in every instance. But our scriptures further elaborate a love not initiated by a feeling of affinity within us but motivated by a choice and intention to love — even those we despise, even those who may annoy us, even those who may harm us, even those we label as our enemy. Among so many other qualities it is a love that bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, and never ends. Forgive us for not choosing to love and for not enduring in love. Grow us in Christ's example; it is in his name that we pray. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from John 15)*

Jesus said, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." That same Jesus laid his life down for his sisters and brothers adopted through their faith into his family giving them freedom and eternal life. Live into Christ's family and know that we are forgiven. Amen.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Since we have been reconciled to God in Jesus Christ, let us now be reconciled to one another. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

. . . to Proclaim God's Word

FIRST READING Jeremiah 1:4-10 p. 698

EPISTLE READING 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 p. 175

GOSPEL READING Luke 4:21-30 p. 61

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "A Love Eternal" Rev. Andy Smothers

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

One: Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our 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 *Westminster Shorter Catechism (Q. 53-56)*

One: What is the third commandment?

Many: The third commandment is, Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

One: What is required in the third commandment?

Many: The third commandment requireth the holy and reverent use of God's names, titles, attributes, ordinances, word, and works.

One: What is forbidden in the third commandment?

All: The third commandment forbiddeth all profaning or abusing of anything whereby God maketh himself known.

One: What is the reason annexed to the third commandment?

All: The reason annexed to the third commandment is that however the breakers of this commandment may escape punishment from men, yet the Lord our God will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgment.

. . . to Give Thanks to God . . .

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(from Luke 4)*

God and Father of Jesus Christ, you sent your Son to fulfill the scriptures including to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, and to let the oppressed go free. As he did this, others held him captive, oppressed him, and brought him continual challenge and bad news. He endured that his message might be heard and that, one day, those proclamations would become

reality. Today, he reigns in heaven with you, and one day, he will rule in every part of this world. To support that sure hope, we give these tithes. Amen.

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to online worship this morning! We invite you to focus on worship and give your attention to God as we join together virtually again this week.

Our thanks go to our lay reader Jean Baringer, and pianist Juanita Rodriquez for the intention to serve today.

Due to rising COVID-19 cases, we have **canceled our Wednesday evening programs until further notice.** Watch our Facebook page and website for further updates.

Due to rising COVID-19 cases, we have rescheduled our **Annual Meeting after worship today until further notice.** **Annual Report** booklets are available today in the narthex.

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ⁱ Some service elements adapted from *Book of Common Worship* (1993).