

Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

4th Sunday after Epiphany

February 2, 2020

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*Holy God,
you gave the law to show your people the way of righteousness.
Help us receive your commandments as grace
and live as your obedient children
that your goodness may shine through us,
to the glory of your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Jesus, Still Lead On

Paul Manz

BRINGING THE LIGHT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who hunger for justice,
for they will be filled.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are we when we gather to hear God's Word,
for we will be nurtured and sustained.

*SONG OF PRAISE

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

Hymnal, No. 415

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

**Surprising God,
You have made foolish the wisdom of the world,
teaching that the meek shall inherit the earth
and heaven belongs to those who suffer for the sake of justice.
But we cling to the values of this world,
things that enhance our status but cheat our souls.
We seek comfort in simple answers and easy outs.
We disregard the marginalized and mock weakness,
forgetting that Christ lifted up the lowly
and made a home among the vulnerable.
God of blessing,
reorient our hearts, and renew our minds,
so that we might act with justice,**

**Human thought ascribes to God
superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness.
But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ
by showing power in the form of a servant,
wisdom in the folly of the cross,
and goodness in receiving
sinful men and women.
The power of God's love in Christ
to transform the world
discloses that the Redeemer
is the Lord and Creator
who made all things
to serve the purpose of God's love.**

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.15

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 35

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Beautiful Savior

F. Melius Christiansen

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymnal, No. 606

*DEDICATION PRAYER

SEALING THE WORD—CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

ANTHEM

Living Bread

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Children:

Who is welcome at this table?

Congregation:

**Friends and strangers,
the hungry and the weary,
refugees and wanderers,
saints and sinners,
all are welcome here.**

Presider:

And why is everyone welcome at this table?

Children:

Because Jesus welcomes everyone!

Presider:

Yes! Jesus draws the welcome circle wider,
so that everyone may come to the table—
So that everyone can come and meet Jesus.
Therefore, let us give thanks and praise.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Children:

Why do we give thanks and praise before this table?

Congregation:

We give thanks for God's work of creation and salvation.

Presider:

It is our greatest joy, creator God,
to give you thanks in every time and place.
You made the heavens and the earth
and all that is in them—
sun, moon, and stars, mountains, rivers, and trees,
animals and people.
You even made us in your own image
to love and serve you, and you show us your mercy every day.
Therefore with all people and all creation,
we shout your praise:

Congregation:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Presider:

All glory and blessing are yours, saving God,
for in your mercy you gave your only Son, Jesus Christ.
Born a child like us,
he grew up to be your servant.
Jesus taught your truth.
He welcomed, healed, forgave, and loved people.
In the end, he suffered and died
to save us from our sin.
And God raised him up,
to give us a new life.
We praise you that before he died,
our Savior gave us this holy meal
to eat together until he comes again.

Children:

Why do we eat bread at this table?

Presider:

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread.
After giving thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Children:

Why do we drink from the cup at this table?

Presider:

The same night, Jesus took the cup, saying:
This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Children:

What do we remember at this table?

Presider:

We remember God's gracious love for us,
Christ's death and resurrection for us,
and the Spirit's tender care for us.
And remembering,
we offer ourselves and our gifts for the world.
According to our Lord's commandment:

Congregation:

**We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory.**

Children:

What do we ask at this table?

Presider:

Merciful God,
pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine,
that in eating and drinking together
we may be made one with Christ
and with one another.

At this table we ask for unity in Christ our Lord,
and we ask for strength to serve the world in his name
until the day you make all things new.

Congregation:

**Through Christ,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
with the Holy Spirit in the holy church,
now and forever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Bless the Lord, O my soul;
**and all that is within me,
bless God's holy name.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul;
and forget not all God's benefits.

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG

Christ Be Beside Me

Hymnal, No. 702

*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

CHORAL BENEDICTION

We Will Walk With God

*POSTLUDE

Little Prelude and Fugue in C Major, BWV 553

J.S. Bach

*Please rise in body or spirit.

We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. You may also indicate interest in membership by checking the appropriate column in the ritual of friendship booklet. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

Lectionary Readings for February 9: Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12); Psalm 112:1-9 (10); 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16); Matthew 5:13-20.

The **Food and Shelter** item of the month for February is **easy open food items**. Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.

Hearing-assistance devices and **large print hymnals** are available from the head usher.

Ushers for today's service are Eileen Burke & Breanna Upton.

Communion servers for today's service are **Joan Cole, Karen Girdner, Jessica Farris, Nick Lindley**.

On Saturday February 15th from 1pm-3pm there will be a **wedding shower for Breanna Upton and Trey Neal** in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Join us after worship for the Annual Congregational meeting following a soup potluck February 16, 2019. Bring your favorite soup, side or dessert, or just bring an appetite!

Ash Wednesday service will be Wednesday, February 26 at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to attend this brief yet meaningful service marking the beginning of the Lent season.

As most of you know, the east window in the sanctuary has been leaking for some time. Building and Grounds is targeting this summer to get that taken care of. We are asking everyone to please consider making a donation designated to the window repair. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Larry Upton - Building and Grounds Chair

SUNDAY

February 2

- 9:30 A.M. – Sunday School
- 10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments
- 10:55 A.M. – Worship Service

WEDNESDAY

February 5

- 3:15 P.M. – Kids' Club
- 5:00 P.M. – Children's Choir
- 6:30 P.M. – Chancel Choir

THURSDAY

February 6

- 6:00 P.M. – Worship Committee Meeting

SUNDAY

February 9

- 9:30 A.M. – Sunday School
- 10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments
- 10:55 A.M. – Worship Service

KNOWN JOYS & CONCERNS

Those who seek healing

Lola Carroll

Sandy Clarke

Jan Cunningham

Laura Eckel

Doug Forsyth

Blair Lanning

Judd Lanning

Jayelle Martin

Emily Ryther

Gary Thraikill

Jona Thiessen

Janann Yeager

Melinda Clements

Pam Normile

Darrell Hinson (Karen Upton's father)

Paul Gallagher (Karen Upton's biological father)

Carole Jo Evans (Tracy Evans' mother)

Jim Leseney (Vince Leseney's father)

Those who Experienced Recent Loss

Samuel McCann whose grandmother died December 11.

Joys

Julian Warren Beck, born December 26, son of Jenny and Warren Beck, proud grandparents are Susan and John Beck

Seminary Graduate

Samuel McCann, Pittsburgh Theo. Seminary

We lift up in prayer the country of Cameroon and pray for the unrest our brothers and sisters are experiencing there.

Birthdays

February 03 – John Montgomery Jr.

February 05 – Cody Yeager

February 06 – Laurianne Fisher

February 09 – Gysheilla Jangha

As part of the **ecumenical prayer cycle**, we ask you to pray for a particular region of the world each week: **Iran, Iraq, Syria**

We are **thankful** for:

- the rich historical legacies and distinctive cultures in these countries.
- the faithful witness of the churches in the midst of empire building and colonization
- the many and diverse waves of migrants who have come to these lands.
- the hospitality that long has been shown to those arriving on their shores.

We **pray** for:

- the preservation of the fragile environments and shorelines in this region.
- an end to economic and political turmoil.
- stable governments that end corruption and serve the common good.
- policies that relieve disparities between those who are **rich and poor**.