

Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

4th Sunday after Epiphany

January 29, 2023

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*Redeeming God, you come to us in Christ;
to rescue us from slavery and lead us
out of captivity.*

*Guide us by the wisdom of the cross,
and show us how to live a life of justice, love,
and blessedness. Amen*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Pastoral-Prelude

Jean Langlais

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 When the Lord Redeems the Very Least Hymnal, No. 852

*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,
practice kindness,
and—in all things—walk humbly with you.**

(Time of silent reflection)

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

*THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*SONG OF RESPONSE

Glory Be to the Father

Hymnal, No. 581

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Jim Rodriguez

SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 6:1-8

Page No. 757

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 15

O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;

who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;

in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear the Lord; who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be moved.

ANTHEM

How Blest We Are

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:1-12

Page No. 785

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Blessed Are Who?

Tracy L. Evans

*SONG OF FAITH

For the Healing of the Nations

Hymnal, No. 346

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**God's sovereign love is a mystery
beyond the reach of the human mind.
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

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymnal, No. 606

*DEDICATION PRAYER

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG

Help Us Accept Each Other

Hymnal, No. 754

*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*POSTLUDE

Toccata on "Lobe den Herren"

Gordon Young

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

The Food & Shelter items of the month for January **are canned fruits and veggies. 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.**

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

852 When the Lord Redeems the Very Least



1 When the Lord re - deems the ver - y least,
 2 When the Lord re - stores the sick and weak, we will re -
 3 When the Lord re - vives the world from death, we will re-joyce, will re -
 4 When the Lord re - turns in vic - to - ry,



joyce.
 joyce, will re-joyce. When the hun - gry gath - er for the feast,
 When the earth is giv - en to the meek,
 When the word of God fills ev - ery breath,
 When we live in glo - rious lib - er - ty,



Refrain



we will re-joyce. We will re-
 we will re-joyce, will re-joyce, will re-joyce. We will re-joyce, will re-



joyce with glad-ness. We will re-joyce.
joyce with glad-ness. We will re-joyce, will re-joyce with glad-ness. All our

We will re-joyce!
days we'll sing to God in praise. We will re-joyce, will re-joyce, will re-joyce!

346 For the Healing of the Nations



1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, Lord, we pray with
 2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
 3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
 4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on



one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
 earth be banned: pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness,



of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
 dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
 bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -



love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.
 care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.
 quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.
 sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.



Help Us Accept Each Other 754



1 Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us;
 2 Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life
 3 Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved
 4 Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,



teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.
 we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.
 in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;
 who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for jus - tice and for bread,



Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,
 to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance un - til we know by heart
 we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on:



we are our - selves ac - cept - ed, and meant to love and live.
 to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.
 the ta - ble of for - give - ness, and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
 re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us; make us one!