### **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.

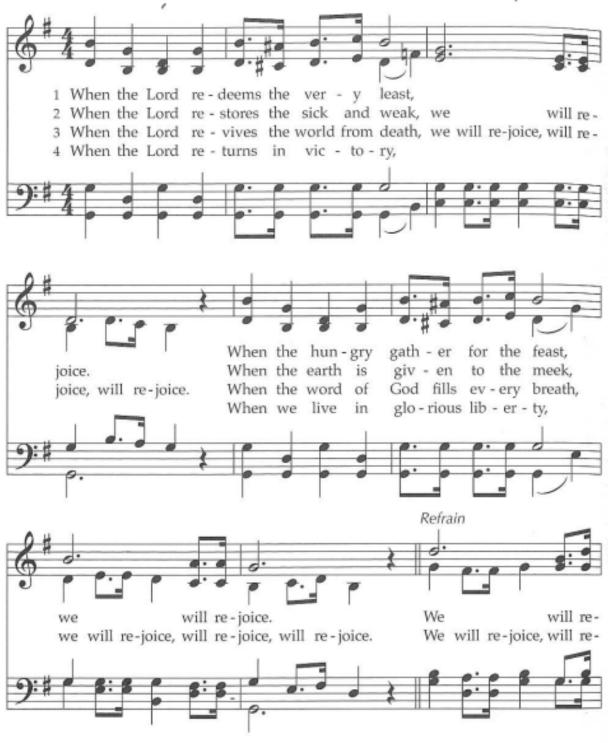
We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. You may also indicate interest in membership by checking the appropriate column in the ritual of friendship booklet. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation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

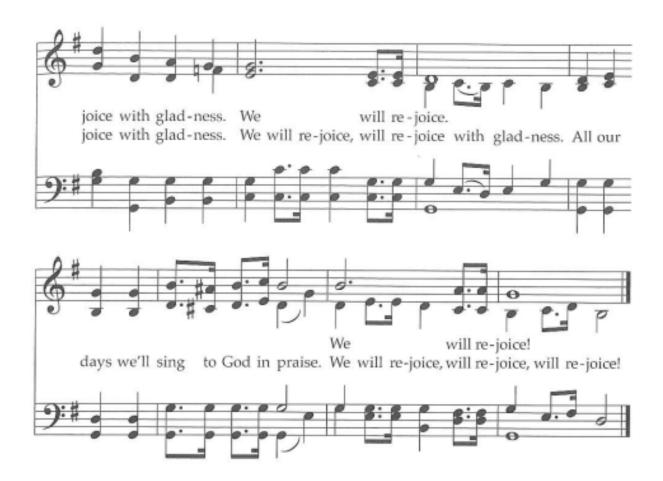
**Lectionary Readings** for February 5: Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12); Psalm 112:1-9 (10); 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16); Matthew 5:13-20.

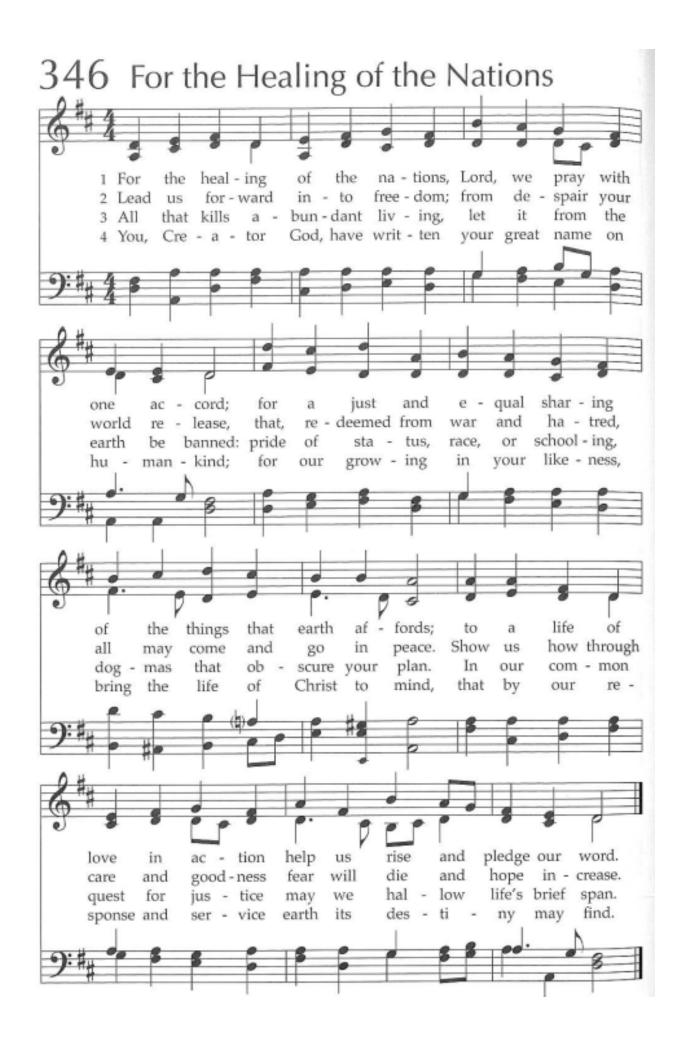
The Food & Shelter items of the month for January are canned fruits and veggies. Please place your donations in the box by the church information table. Hearing-assistance devices and large print hymnals are available from the head usher.

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

# 852 When the Lord Redeems the Very Least







## 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,



sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son teach us to em - brace. as strug - gle hu - man and search for hope and faith. sit - u - a - tions to liv - ing 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:



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