

Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

5th Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2024

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

O God from whom all blessings flow,
help us to embrace the unique gifts
your Spirit has instilled in each of us.

Give us the wisdom to discern
where your world could use our talents most,
and grant us humility to recognize
where we rely on the strength and insight of others,
so that, in mutual giving and receiving,
all needs may be met,
according to the way of Jesus
through his life and death. Amen.

PRELUDE

Andantino, Op. 45, No. 16

S. Heller

BRINGING THE LIGHT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Nick Lindley

Called to be light,
**we would carry God's hope into
the shadows of the world.**

Called to be salt,
**we would enhance the lives
of those around us, with joy.**

Called to live in God's reality,
**we would welcome everyone
as sisters and brothers in faith.**

*SONG OF PRAISE Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness Hymnal, No. 314

*CONFESSON AND PARDON

Gracious God, we confess that it is harder to do than we expected, this life of faith. You call us to be salt of the earth and to live lives of justice and righteousness and love. But our lives become busy. Following what others do is just easier. And sometimes the cost for doing what is right seems too high. One day, perhaps, we will commit more fully, but the status quo works better for us right now. Forgive us, we pray. Startle our senses and disrupt our routines. Renew in us the passion for doing what is right in your eyes, and inspire us to be sources of your light in the world. May we, like the prophets and the saints, act by faith no matter how high the cost.

(Time for silent reflection)

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Alleluia! 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.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In Jesus of Nazareth,
true humanity was realized once for all.
Jesus, a Palestinian Jew,
lived among his own people
and shared their needs, temptations,
joys, and sorrows.
He expressed the love of God
in word and deed
and became a brother
to all kinds of sinful men and women.
But his complete obedience
led him into conflict with his people.
His life and teaching judged their goodness,
religious aspirations, and national hopes.
Many rejected him and demanded his death.
In giving himself freely for them,
he took upon himself the judgment
under which everyone stands convicted.
God raised him from the dead,
vindicating him as Messiah and Lord.
The victim of sin became victor,
and won the victory
over sin and death for all.

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.08

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal, p. 35

Please pray the Lord's Prayer
in the language and wording most familiar to you.

THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow Hymnal, No. 606

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG I want to Walk as a Child of the Light Hymnal, No. 377

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*POSTLUDE Prelude in C Major, BWV 933 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. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

Lectionary Readings for February 15: Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2 or Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9.

The Food & Shelter items are easy open soup(pull tab) and cold weather accessories (hats, gloves, hot hands and socks). **Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.**