



February 23, 2025

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

GATHERING IN THE LORD'S PRESENCE

Boldface = All speak

❖ = All who are able, please stand.

PRELUDE "My Jesus, I Love Thee" *Adoniram J Gordan, Arr. by Jason W. Krug*
"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" *Albert L. Peace, Arr. by R. Kevin Boesiger*

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

❖ **CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 37:39-40*)

Our salvation is from the Lord;

God is our refuge in times of trouble.

The Lord helps us and rescues us;

God saves us because we take refuge in our Lord.

Come, let us worship God!

❖ **HYMN** "God is Calling Through the Whisper" **#410**

(CCLI Song #7084847. Words: Mary Louise Bringle © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc. Music: Wilbur Lee © 1958 Broadman Press (admin. Music Services)

❖ **CALL TO CONFESSION AND PRAYER**

Merciful God, you have commanded us to love you above all and to have no other gods. You have called us to love others as you love them. But we are personally and socially malformed by the love of other "gods" — the false gods of prosperity and materialism, racial and ethnic privileging, gender exclusivity, and nationalistic imperialism. (a time for silent confession) Merciful God, forgive us our sins and transform us by your Spirit so that we might learn to love as you love and live as people baptized as your own children. Amen.

❖ **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE**

❖ **AFFIRMING THE PEACE AMONG US**

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

The children may go back to Sunday School at this time.

GLORIA PATRI.....Henry W. Greatorex (*Public Domain*).....**#581**

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that the Scripture we are about to hear will become God's Word for us in this day and age. May we listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church. Amen.

1st SCRIPTUREGenesis 45:3-11 and 15, pg. 64
Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM..... "Growing in God's Grace"
(Words and music by Diane Hannibal and Stewart Harris)

2nd SCRIPTURELuke 6:27-38, pg. 1469
Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. Thanks be to God.

MESSAGEThe Rev. Sara K. Snowden

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

❖**HYMN** "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" **#753**
(One License song #80478. Text: Based on the prayer traditionally ascribed to St. Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226. Text and music: Sebastian Temple © 1967, OCP.)

❖**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*from A Brief Statement of Faith*)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls [people] to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to

hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(p. 35 in the hymnal)*

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

DOXOLOGY Genevan Psalter *(Public Domain)*..... **#606**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT & SERVE

❖**HYMN** "Help Us Accept Each Other" **#754**
(CCLI Song #1192703. Fred Kaan © Words: 1975 Hope Publishing Company. Doreen Potter © Music: 1975 Hope Publishing Company.)

❖**SENDING FORTH**

POSTLUDE..... Fanfare on "Ellacombe" *Arr. by Lani Smith*

Pastor: The Rev. Sara K. Snowden

Lector: Caroline Knoff

Greeter: Sue Cory

Worship Pianist: Amy Dickman

Offering Counters: Duncan Cory & Darly Doyle

In gratitude for Roger Gench and the Presbyterian Outlook for inspiring portions of today's worship service.



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