

**First United Methodist Church of Toms River**  
**Sanctuary Worship ~ January 23, 2022**  
*Third Sunday after Epiphany*

---

PRELUDE *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian* Robert J. Powell

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 5:11-12

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord

**Ministers: Thanks be to God!**

\*HYMN No. 139 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (MDPC)

**Eternal and Loving God, we come today as your children because we love you. You are the one and only giver of life and sustainer of our souls. We are grateful for your grace and the call to be your hands and feet. Responding to this great mercy, we confess how we have sinned and fallen short of your intention for us. We have said and done mean and selfish things, we have hurt others, and we have lived as if the universe revolved around us. We have strayed from our worship of you and gone our own way. We are sorry. Please forgive us. Cause us to return to you that we may experience your loving embrace. We ask all this in the matchless name of Jesus...**

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

THE LORD'S PRAYER No. 895

\*RESPONSIVE READING

Pastor: God, who made all things and is beyond our imagining

**Ministers: Thank you for the gift of life, the gift of today, the gift of this space**

Pastor: Jesus Christ, who came into our world to be with us

**Ministers: Thank you for your healing presence, your life, your friendship**

Pastor: Spirit of God, who animates us with resurrection life

**Ministers: Breathe on us, be in our midst, animate our worship**

Pastor: We're here, you're here, may that be enough

**Ministers: Though we see dimly, though we know only in part, though you are a mystery**

Pastor: We long for you

**Ministers: We look for you and we wait for you. Praise be to God**

\*PRAISE RESPONSE

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen**

\*A MODERN AFFIRMATION NO. 885

**We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good. We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death. We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need. We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE No. 500

**Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; wean it from earth; through all its pulses move; stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art, and make me love thee as I ought to love. (2x)**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Meditation*

Flor Peeters

PRESENTATION OF OUR TRUST, TITHES AND OFFERINGS

\*DOXOLOGY No. 95

\*HYMN No. 399

*Take My Life, and Let It Be*

MESSAGE

## Life is Much More than You Think

Luke 12:13-21

\*HYMN No. 127

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*Prelude in C*

John Kerbs

\*Indicates that those who are able, please stand