

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give our thanks and praise.

Let us pray:

Creating God, in the beginning, You created the heavens and the earth....So we join our voices with all of creation to praise you:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We speak of your glory....And so that all may believe. **Amen.**

Words of Institution

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Spirit on us....Creator, Christ, and Spirit. **Amen.**

And together we pray: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.**

Breaking of the Bread

Communion

Prayer after Communion

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

What Child Is This?

#145

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Mary, Did You Know?* Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene (arr. Dennis Alexander)

Leaders in Worship:

Karen M. Keady, CRE, preaching

Ursula Damgaard, Music Director

Roger Keady, Liturgist

Communion Servers: Ralph Dreyer, Jim Mitchelmore, Tom Stocks, Marita Talbott & Dawn Champoux

Liturgy adapted in part from Paul Galbreath, *Leading into the World*, Roman and Littlefield, and *Presbyterian Outlook*.

Front art: *The Liturgical Year and the Art of Clemens Schmidt*, Order of St. Benedict, Collegeville, Minnesota, 2003.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

Eugene, Oregon

January 2, 2022

Gathering Around God's Word

PRELUDE

Angels, From the Realms of Glory

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come to worship, people of God

We come ready to be embraced by God's love and grace

We come open to the Spirit moving among us

Come to worship, people of God

We come ready to embody God's love and grace

We come open to being Christ's hands and feet

Come! Let us worship God.

*OPENING HYMN

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

#152

CALL TO CONFESSION

As we enter this new year, let us pause to confess our old ways of sin and embrace each new opportunity Christ presents us. Let us confess our sins together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Christ our Savior, you have empowered us to become children of God, but we doubt our power and our ability to create change. We excuse ourselves from necessary action citing priorities that are not yours. We deny the gifts and talents with which you have blessed us to embody love and work for justice. Forgive us, Merciful God. Remind us how much we have to offer. Amen. (*Prayers continue in silence.*)

SUNG RESPONSE

O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 4)

#121

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Luke 6:37)

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.” Sisters and brothers, we are free to let go of the sin that has held us down, to rise, and to live in Christ.

Thanks be to God.

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

New Testament Reading: Ephesians 1:11-13

In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit;

New Testament Reading: John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of

God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

SERMON

“The Epiphany Cycle”

Karen M. Keady

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – from A Brief Statement of Faith

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 women and men 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!” With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of the nations, your star has risen in the night sky guiding us to Christ, your son. . . . human needs to you in prayer.

Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.

In the aftermath of devastating storms, when the earth feels set against us and the climate rebels from our abuse, guide us, Creator, into right relationship with the natural world. . . . May we learn to live in peace.

Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.

Redeemer God, as we grapple with easily transmitted disease, guide us in wise decision-making, faithful leadership, and responsible action. . . . Protect us and others in these contentious times.

Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.

God of Grace, comfort those for whom this new year brings not promise but pain. . . . Guide us in your path of peace.

Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.

United as the Body of Christ we lift these prayers to you, Savior God. Amen.