

First United Methodist Church
Sunday, January 28, 2024



Strengthening and sharing our Christian
faith through fellowship and service.

January 28, 2024 ~ The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Enter to Worship

This is a Time of Silence as We Prepare for Worship.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

† OPENING HYMN, NO. 612

All Creatures of Our God and King

† CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come! Let us give thanks to the Lord with whole hearts.

All: Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

One: Glory be to the One whose wonders are to be remembered.

All: Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

One: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

All: Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

One: The Lord feeds the righteous with truth.

All: Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

One: Come! Let us give thanks to God.

† PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, Light from Light, who commands the universe and all that is made, your Word is the power that makes whole what is broken, the force of good, and the food of peace. Teach us now as you taught in the synagogue. Heal us now so that in all that we say and do, the freedom we have in you may be for others, too; in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, your people call out for understanding. Bring to our yearning hearts and minds the truth of your Word; in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

PSALTER NO. 832

Psalms 111, Response 2

EPISTLE LESSON

1Corinthians 8:1-13

† GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:21-28

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Elizabeth A. Lutz

ANTHEM

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH NO. 885

A Modern Affirmation

† HYMN NO. 451

Be Thou My Vision

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A time of silence follows each petition.

May we pray for the needs of the world, saying, Hear us, O God, your mercy is great.

For the healing of the Earth and all its creatures; hear us, O God, ***your mercy is great.***

For the church's willingness to cast out demons in its midst, for congregations that are in turmoil, for the healing of divisions between the followers of Christ Jesus; hear us, O God, ***your mercy is great.***

For leaders of nations, for those who have great wealth, for those who have too much power, for those who have destructive weapons, and for those who have none; hear us, O God, ***your mercy is great.***

For those who are victims of others' idolatry, for children who have no one to listen to their cries for food and shelter, for parents who cannot answer the needs of their children, for peacemakers and diplomats, for those who give through charities, and for those who use the law to make policies for the greater good; hear us, O God, ***your mercy is great.***

For all who are in pain and in need of care, especially those we name now aloud or silently ... hear us, O God, ***your mercy is great.***

For the wisdom to fear you rightly, the power to withstand changes in our own lives that bring us closer to you, for the ability to give thanks for the people who have brought us to this time – our ancestors, teachers, pastors, and the martyrs of every age; hear us, O God, ***your mercy is great.***

Into your hands we commend all those for whom we pray and those it would be easy to forget. We ask your blessing on all your people, that we may come at last to the truth around your banquet table that has no end; through Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. ***Amen.***

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

For Earth, which you have molded, for creatures and animals, plants, water, air, and fire, for Jesus who died and rose again, for the breath of life, we give you thanks, O God. Let these gifts be used for good wherever there is need, in the name of all that you have first given us, especially Christ Jesus, your Son, our Savior. ***Amen.***

† CLOSING HYMN, NO. 395

Take Time to be Holy

†PRAYER FOR THE RENEWAL OF CHRIST'S CHURCH

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Christ Jesus, your Son and our Savior. Amen.

† CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION AND BLESSING

Go out from this place to a world fully known by God. Where there is fear, remember the authority of Christ Jesus. Where there is need of love, give it. Where there is pain, bring peace. For you are loved by the One who redeems, and freed to live by the Word of Life.

Go in peace with the knowledge that God's power is given to the church, the body of Christ, for the sake of the life of the world. ***Thanks be to God!***

POSTLUDE

Please remain in silence until the Postlude has concluded and all have been dismissed.

† Please stand as you are able.

Words in ***bold & italic*** are to be spoken by the congregation.

*Flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God
in honor of our church staff given by anonymous.*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP

Lay Reader: Ray Hussein

Ushers: Faith Team

TO BE REMEMBERED

Prayers for Healing

Members: A.Y. Cooper, Yvonne Edwards, Sibyl French, Phyllis Kirts, Peggy Pierce, Rita Potter, Jane Preston, Jean Richardson, Agnes Rodgers, Norman Shields, Judy Talbert, Nancy Vincent, Sally Walker, Barbara Yost

Friends: Phyllis Earley

Birthdays: 1/28 Susanne Daley, 1/30 Kim Webster, 2/01 Mary Barker

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Missions—Community Support—For the last several February's, First Church has shown our appreciation to those who help in our community. Again this year, we will deliver snacks to the local fire department, police station, the Newport/Huntington and Palmer Elementary. We are asking church members to bring packaged small items i.e. nabs, chips, cookies, candy, etc. Items are due by February 11th and a tub will be in the Narthex marked Fire and Police. If you have any questions please call the Dodson's. Thank you for your continued support!

Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday observed in many Christian countries through participating in confession and absolution, the ritual burning of the previous year's Holy Week palms, finalizing one's Lenten sacrifice, as well as eating pancakes and other sweets. **Join us for a Pancake Dinner here at the church on Tuesday, February 13 at 5 pm.**

Lay Readers and Flower Sign Ups—There are still empty slots on the board for February Lay readers and flowers for the sanctuary. The March and April sign up sheets are also up as well.

Undies Sunday's

It is that time of year again. We will be collecting NEW women's and men's socks and underwear for PORT, all sizes. Place them in the box located in the Narthex. Gloves and winter hats will also be appreciated. We're trying to cover everyone from top to bottom. Thank you from Missions.

Caring for God's Creation—You already know Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. You may even have added Refuse, Repair, and Rot(compost) to the list. Here's one more: Remember! Remember who you are and whose you are. When you focus on God's call for you to care for creation and justice, it's easier to remember to do the other R's.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, January 28 ~ The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. Psalm 111:10

All the nations you have made shall come and bow down before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. Psalm 86:9

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God.” Revelation 21:3

Ever-present God, how assuring it is to know that you have come to dwell with us, and are not just watching, judging, and commanding from a distance. Thank you for being our Emmanuel. Amen.

Monday, January 29

All the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no other. 1Kings 8:60

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. Matthew 28:19-20

Sending God, when we become comfortable with watching and not doing the work of ministry, remind us we all have a role to fill, a part to play, and gifts to use, and that even small parts are essential. Amen.

Tuesday, January 30

Jesse said to his son David, “see how your brothers fare.” 1Samuel 17:18

Just then some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a stretcher. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus. Luke 5:18

Compassionate God, open our eyes to the needs of our brothers and sisters, friends, and neighbors, and keep us from being complacent. We know we can't do everything, but move us to do something – anything, but not nothing. Amen.

Wednesday, January 31

Truly in the Lord our God is the salvation of Israel. Jeremiah 3:23

Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Luke 1:46-47

Gracious Savior, there is nothing that we can say or do that can express the depth of our gratitude for what you have done for us. Thank you alone isn't enough. Amen.

Thursday, February 1

The Lord looks down from heaven on humankind to see if there are any who are wise, who seek after God. Psalm 14:2

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2Peter 3:18

Gracious God, it is your desire that we seek after you so that we may grow in grace. With all that goes on around us, help us to be deliberate, and consciously pursue you for guidance. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Friday, February 2

Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." Isaiah 2:3

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them. Matthew 5:1-2

Great Teacher, thank you for lovingly and patiently teaching us, so that guidelines are clear as we seek to walk in the ways you have carved out for us. May we demonstrate these principles in our lives, for Christ's sake. Amen.

Saturday, February 3

I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Psalm 32:8

Jesus said to Simon and Andrew, "Follow me." Matthew 4:19

Gracious Savior, help us to hear our names as you call us to follow you. May we be ever mindful of your presence as you watch over us and guide us on our way, for your name's sake. Amen.

THIS WEEK

Sun, Jan. 28

9 am—Sunday School

10 am—Worship

11 am—Choir

11:45 am—Handbell Choir

Mon, Jan. 29

10:30 am— Bible Study

Tues, Jan. 30

7 pm—Book Club

Wed, Jan. 31

10 am—Chapel

6 pm—Bible Study

First United Methodist Church

Sunday Services: 9 am Sunday School; 10 am Worship Service

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