



**United in Christ: Hope Now! Hope Always!**

*“Wait, Israel, for God! Wait with hope! Hope now! Hope always! Psalm 131:3*

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

**January 31, 2021**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

**Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones    Lay Ministry Administrator: Jenny Hoffman**

**Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz    Soloist: Kyla Betts**

**Clarinet: Richard MacDonald**

**Lector: Diane Matson (8:00 a.m.)    Marti Conant (9:15 a.m.)**

**Usher: Mark Holzhter (8:00 a.m.)**

**Tune your radio to FM 87.9    Technical Support: Thomas Lehr**

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God’s works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus’ actions and words. We encounter that authority in God’s word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

**CALL TO WORSHIP: “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, whose voice is upon the water, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** Holy God

**C:** you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin-our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

**P:** How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of ✝ Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

**C:** Amen.

**HYMN: "Rise, Shine, You People!" #665 ELW**

**Vs. 1: Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered  
our human story; God in him is centered.  
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, with grace unbounded.**

**Vs. 2: See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;  
he brings us freedom, light and life and healing.  
All men and women, who by guilt are driven, now are forgiven.**

**Vs. 3: Come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling,  
your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.  
To all the world go out and tell the story of Jesus' glory.**

**Vs. 4: Tell how the Father sent the Son to save us.  
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.  
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation  
God's new creation.**

**GREETING**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

*Honk your horns to greet one another.*

### **LITANY FOR EPIPHANY**

**P:** In the beginning was the word,

**C: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

**P:** In the Word was life,

**C: and the life was the light of all people.**

**P:** The word became flesh and lived among us,

**C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.**

### **HYMN OF PRAISE: "Lord Be Glorified" #744 ELW**

**Vs. 1: In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;  
in my life, Lord, be glorified today.**

**Vs. 4: In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.  
In your world, Lord, be glorified today.**

### **SALUTATION**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

*Honk your horns to greet one another.*

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Let us pray.

**C: Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### **ANTHEM: "Slow Down" by Childs**

### **FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

<sup>15-16</sup> GOD, your God, is going to raise up a prophet for you. GOD will raise him up from among your kinsmen, a prophet like me. Listen obediently to him. This is what you asked GOD, your God, for at Horeb on the day you were all gathered at the mountain and said, "We can't hear any more from God, our God; we can't

stand seeing any more fire. We'll die!" <sup>17-19</sup> And God said to me, "They're right; they've spoken the truth. I'll raise up for them a prophet like you from their kinsmen. I'll tell him what to say and he will pass on to them everything I command him. And anyone who won't listen to my words spoken by him, I will personally hold responsible. <sup>20</sup> "But any prophet who fakes it, who claims to speak in my name something I haven't commanded him to say, or speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet must die."

**L:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL CANTICLE: "Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise" #207 ELW**

**Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell ev'ryone what God has done.  
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ.  
Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

*The Gospel is announced...*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter.

**C:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28**

<sup>21-22</sup> Then they entered Capernaum. When the Sabbath arrived, Jesus lost no time in getting to the meeting place. He spent the day there teaching. They were surprised at his teaching—so forthright, so confident—not quibbling and quoting like the religion scholars. <sup>23-24</sup> Suddenly, while still in the meeting place, he was interrupted by a man who was deeply disturbed and yelling out, "What business do you have here with us, Jesus? Nazarene! I know what you're up to! You're the Holy One of God, and you've come to destroy us!"<sup>25-26</sup> Jesus shut him up: "Quiet! Get out of him!" The afflicting spirit threw the man into spasms, protesting loudly—and got out.<sup>27-28</sup> Everyone there was spellbound, buzzing with curiosity. "What's going on here? A new teaching that does what it says? He shuts up defiling, demonic spirits and tells them to get lost!" News of this traveled fast and was soon all over Galilee.

**P:** The gospel of the Lord.

**C:** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN: "Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory" #561 ELW**

**Vs. 1: Joyous light of heav'nly glory, loving glow of God's own face,  
you who sing creation's story, shine on ev'ry land and race.**

**Now as evening falls around us, we shall raise our songs to you.  
God of daybreak, God of shadows, come and light our hearts anew.**

**Vs. 2: In the stars that grace the darkness, in the blazing sun of dawn,  
in the light of peace and wisdom, we can hear your quiet song.**

**Love that fills the night with wonder, love that warms the weary soul,  
love that bursts all chains asunder, set us free and make us whole.**

**Vs. 3: You who made the heaven's splendor, ev'ry dancing star of night,  
make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect your light.**

**Mighty God of all creation, gentle Christ who lights our way,  
loving Spirit of salvation, lead us on to endless day.**

### **. APOSTLE'S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESION**

**P: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the**

church, the world, and all people in need.

*Honk your horns three times after each petition*

**P:** For all who share the gospel and proclaim freedom in Christ throughout the world: prophets, teachers, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders; for the church and its ministries, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

**P:** For all God's works in creation: plants and animals, water and soil, forests and farms; and for those tasked with protecting our natural resources and all that exists, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

**P:** For government and leaders: cities and nations, rescue professionals and legal aid attorneys, elected officials and grassroots organizers; for all responsible for the well-being of civil society, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

**P:** For those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit: those who are sick and hospitalized, those living with HIV/AIDS, those struggling with mental illness, those who are hungry or homeless, and all in any need (*especially*); for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

**P:** For the concerns of this congregation: those who travel, those absent from worship, those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries; for the people of God in this place and for other needs in our community, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

**P:** For the covenant God made with us in the waters of baptism, in thanksgiving for the baptized who have died in the Lord, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

**P:** Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

### **THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Honk your horns to greet one another.*

### **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 and ever. Amen.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BENEDICTION**

**P:** God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit  
the comforter ✝ keep you in peace.

**C:** Amen.

Honk your horns for one last greeting

**P:** Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**C:** Thanks be to God!

### **SENDING HYMN: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" #815 ELW**

**Vs. 1:** I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

#### ***Refrain***

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

**Vs. 2:** I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,  
and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*

**Vs. 3:** I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

### **POSTLUDE: "The God of Abraham Praise"**