



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

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

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

**February 7, 2021**

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

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

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

**Clainet: Richard MacDonald**

**Lector: Mike Warwick**

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

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (*diakonia*). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

**CALL TO WORSHIP: “Sweet Hour of Prayer” Handbell Quartet**

**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 to 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: "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" #886 vss. 1-4**

**Vs. 1: Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!**

**Vs. 2: My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.**

**Vs. 3: The name of Jesus charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease,  
sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life and health and peace.**

**Vs. 4: He speaks, and list'ning to his voice, new life the dead receive;  
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.**

#### **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 vss. 1 & 4**

**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: Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**ANTHEM: “Just a Closer Walk”**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21-31**

Have you not been paying attention? Have you not been listening? Haven't you heard these stories all your life? Don't you understand the foundation of all things? God sits high above the round ball of earth. The people look like mere ants. He stretches out the skies like a canvas—yes, like a tent canvas to live under. He ignores what all the princes say and do. the rulers of the earth count for nothing. Princes and rulers don't amount to much. Like seeds barely rooted, just sprouted, They shrivel when God blows on them. Like flecks of chaff, they're gone with the wind. <sup>25-26</sup> “So—who is like me? Who holds a candle to me?” says The Holy. Look at the night skies: Who do you think made all this? Who marches this army of stars out each night, counts them off, calls each by name so magnificent!

so powerful!—and never overlooks a single one? <sup>27-31</sup> Why would you ever complain, O Jacob, or, whine, Israel, saying, “God has lost track of me. He doesn’t care what happens to me”? Don’t you know anything? Haven’t you been listening? God doesn’t come and go. God *lasts*. He’s Creator of all you can see or imagine. He doesn’t get tired out, doesn’t pause to catch his breath. And he knows *everything*, inside and out. He energizes those who get tired, gives fresh strength to dropouts. For even young people tire and drop out, young folk in their prime stumble and fall. But those who wait upon God get fresh strength. They spread their wings and soar like eagles, They run and don’t get tired, they walk and don’t lag behind.

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 1st Chapter.

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

**GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39**

<sup>29-31</sup> Directly on leaving the meeting place, they came to Simon and Andrew’s house, accompanied by James and John. Simon’s mother-in-law was sick in bed, burning up with fever. They told Jesus. He went to her, took her hand, and raised her up. No sooner had the fever left than she was up fixing dinner for them. <sup>32-34</sup> That evening, after the sun was down, they brought sick and evil-afflicted people to him, the whole city lined up at his door! He cured their sick bodies and tormented spirits. Because the demons knew his true identity, he didn’t let them say a word. <sup>35-37</sup> While it was still night, way before dawn, he got up and went out to a secluded spot and prayed. Simon and those with him went looking for him. They found him and said, “Everybody’s looking for you.” <sup>38-39</sup> Jesus said, “Let’s go to the rest of the villages so I can preach there also. This is why I’ve come.” He

went to their meeting places all through Galilee, preaching and throwing out the demons.

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

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

## **SERMON**

**HYMN: "Healer of Our Every Ill" #ELW 612 vss. 1, 2, 4**

***Refrain:***

**Healer of our ev'ry ill, light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.**

**Vs. 1: You who know our fears and sadness,  
grace us with your peace and gladness;  
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. *Refrain***

**Vs. 2: In the pain and joy beholding how your grace is still unfolding,  
give us all your vision, God of love. *Refrain***

**Vs. 4: You who know each thought and feeling, teach us all your way of healing;  
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. *Refrain***

## **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 INTERCESSION**

**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 the church: for ministries of healing and wholeness, for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains, for those serving in prison ministry, for all who proclaim freedom and release in the name of Christ, let us pray.

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

**P:** For creation: for insects in the grass, clouds on the mountaintops, for cattle and the rainwater they drink, for the humility to take our place among all creatures of the earth, let us pray.

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

**P:** For the nations: for all who lead in cities and towns, states and countries; for community organizers, school officials, and CEOs; for international health organizations, that in times of trial, fear, or hopelessness, they find freedom in service to those most in need, let us pray.

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

**P:** For all wearied by life's burdens: for those who are poor, for those lacking supportive relationships, for those crushed by debt, for those struggling with chronic pain or other sickness, for those exhausted from overwork or stress, and for all who cry out to you, let us pray.

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

**P:** For this congregation: for outreach and social ministries centered here; for parish nurses and visitors; for ministries of companionship and support, for the young people in this place who open us to new understandings, let us pray.

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

**P:** In thanksgiving for the faithful departed, who were called by name and now rest from their labors, that their lives serve as witnesses to the goodness of God, 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.**

### **ANOUNCEMENTS**

#### **BLESSING**

**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 one last time.*

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

**C: Thanks be to God!**

#### **SENDING HYMN: "I Love to Tell the Story" #661 ELW vs. 1**

**Vs. 1: I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.**

**I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.**

***Refrain:***

**I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

**POSTLUDE: "Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor" Owen/Cool**