WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND PASTORAL GREETING

VIRTUAL PASSING OF THE PEACE
Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRELUDE  “Great God, Your Love Has Called Us”
Setting by Aaron David Miller

RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP  Henry Augustine
For God alone, our souls wait in silence, for our hope is from God.
God alone is our rock and our salvation, our fortress shall not be shaken.
On God rests our deliverance and our honor; our might rock, our refuge is in God.
All: Trust in God at all times. O people; pour out your heart before the Almighty;
God is a refuge for us.
Let us worship God, the One calling us to love the Lord our God with all our
heart and with all our soul and all our mind . . . . and to love our neighbor as
ourselves.
(adaptation from Psalm 62: 5-10)

HYMN  “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”  (Blue hymnal) #827
Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1597; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863
Music: Philipp Nicolai, 1599; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1740

O Morning Star, how fair and bright! Thou bearest forth in truth and light!
O Sovereign meek and lowly! Thou root of Jesse, David’s Son,
My Lord and Savior, Thou hast won
My heart to serve Thee solely!
Thou are holy, fair and glorious, all victorious,
Rich in blessing, rule and might o’er all possessing.

Thou heavenly brightness! Light divine! O deep within my heart now shine,
And make Thee there an altar! Fill me with joy and strength to be
Thy member, ever joined to Thee
In love that cannot falter!
Toward Thee longing doth possess me; turn and bless me;
Here in sadness eye and heart long for Thy gladness!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION  Henry Augustine
Most gracious and all wise God, we come before thee painfully aware of our inadequacies and
shortcomings. We realize that we stand surrounded with the mountains of love and we
deliberately dwell in the valley of hate.
We stand amid the forces of truth and deliberately lie.  
We are forever offered the high road and yet we choose to travel the low road.  
For these sins, O God, forgive us.  
Break the spell of that which blinds our minds.  
Purify our hearts that we may see thee.  
O God in these turbulent days when fear and doubt are mounting high give us broad visions, penetrating eyes, and power of endurance. Help us to work with renewed vigor for a warless world, for a better distribution of wealth and for a brother/sisterhood that transcends race or color.  
In the name and spirit of Jesus we pray. Amen.  

(Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

ORGAN MEDITATION “Come, Follow Me” Orlando Di Lasso

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Faith Benedict

Perfect light of revelation, as you shone in the life of Jesus, whose epiphany we celebrate, so shine in us and through us as we stop to listen to your Word. May we clear our minds of chatter and hear your call to become beacons of truth and compassion, enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy. Amen.  

(Adaptation from a Vanderbilt Education library lectionary resource)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 25: 31-40

The Judgement of the Nations

‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”
Mark 1: 14-20

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you fish for people.’ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

RESPONSE

Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. Thanks be to God. (Deut. 6:6)

SERMON

“Follow me and I will make you fish for people.”

HYMN

“We Are Your People” (Blue hymnal) #436

Text: Brian Wren, 1973; text copyright © 1975

We are your people: Lord, by Your grace, you dare to make us Christ to our neighbors of every nation and race.

Called to portray You, help us to live closer than neighbors, open to strangers, able to clash and forgive.

Glad of tradition, help us to see in all life’s changing where You are leading, where our best efforts should be.

Joined in community, breaking Your bread, may we discover gifts in each other, willing to lead and be led.

Lord, as we minister in different ways, may all we’re doing show that You’re living, meeting Your love with our praise.
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD’S PRAYER

CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Lord, All My Heart Is Fixed On Thee” harm. J. S. Bach