Bulletin

January 31, 2021 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany (on-line worship service)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND PASTORAL GREETING

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

PRELUDE
“Toccata sexta” Georg Muffat

RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP Sophie Augustine
I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.
Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.
He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the Lord is gracious and merciful.
Praise the Lord!

HYMN
“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” #611
Text: Henry van Dyke, 1907, alt.
Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1842, alt.

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect Thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o’er us, joining all in heaven’s plan.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.
PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Sophie Augustine
Gracious God, we fill our souls with the empty sounds of our culture and wonder why we are so empty when we need words of hope, of grace, of comfort. We are careful to follow the prescriptions our doctors give us, yet we pay little heed to your hopes for us. We puff out our chests over what good people we are, yet we do not notice how our pride trips those who seek to follow Jesus. Forgive us, and be gracious to us: astound us with your words, so we may learn your ways; nourish us with your mercy, so we may be filled with life. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen

Where the Broken Gather, Thomas Shuman

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

ORGAN MEDITATION “Andantino in D Major” Fritz Lubrich

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Beth Reiners
God of mercy, you promised never to break covenant with us. Amid all the changing words of our generation, speak your eternal Word that does not change. Then may we respond to your gracious promises with faithful and obedient lives; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 111

Praise for God’s Wonderful Works

Praise the Lord!
I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them.
Full of honour and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.
He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;
the Lord is gracious and merciful.
He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.
He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.
The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.
They are established for ever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.
He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name.
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;   
all those who practice it have a good understanding.   
His praise endures forever.

Mark 1: 21-28

The Man with an Unclean Spirit

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, ‘What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.’ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, ‘Be silent, and come out of him!’ And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, ‘What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.’ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

RESPONSE

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

SERMON

HYMN                                   “May the God of Hope Go with Us”   #765
Text: Alvin Schutmaat, 1984
Music: Argentine folk melody

May the God of hope go with us every day,   
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.   
May the God of justice speed us on our way,   
bringing light and hope to every land and race.   
Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;   
Working for a world that’s new, faithful when we hear Christ’s call.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD’S PRAYER

CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE                                   “Mosso Moderato in D Minor”   Henry Goetze

“Mosso Moderato in D Minor”   Henry Goetze