

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Morning Prayer Service
January 29, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Hymn “Spirit of the Living God Fall Afresh on Me”

Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me. (*Repeat*)

Opening Sentence

Officiant Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Confession of Sin

Officiant Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Officiant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All **Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Officiant continues

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

All **Amen.**

Invitatory

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

All **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Jubilate *(said responsively by whole verse)*

Officiant Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

All **Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

Officiant Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

All **For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

Officiant Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Antiphon

Officiant The Lord has shown forth his glory.

All **Come let us adore him.**

Psalm 15 (*said responsively by whole verse*)

Reader LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
who may abide upon your holy hill?

All **Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
who speaks the truth from his heart.**

Reader There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend; *
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

All **In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
but he honors those who fear the LORD.**

Reader He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.

All **He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.**

Reader Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

First Reading **Micah 6:1-8**

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

‘O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,

and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.’

‘With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?’

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 10: The Second Song of Isaiah (*said responsively by whole verse*)

Officiant Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; *
call upon him when he draws near.

All **Let the wicked forsake their ways *
and the evil ones their thoughts;**

Officiant And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion, *
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.

All **For my thoughts are not your thoughts, *
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.**

Officiant For as the heavens are higher than the earth, *
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

All **For as rain and snow fall from the heavens *
and return not again, but water the earth,**

Officiant Bringing forth life and giving growth, *
seed for sowing and bread for eating,

All **So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; *
it will not return to me empty;**

Officiant But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, *
and prosper in that for which I sent it.

All **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, ‘Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.’

Officiant Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 19: The Song of the Redeemed *(said responsively by whole verse)*

Officiant O ruler of the universe, Lord God,
 great deeds are they that you have done, *
 surpassing human understanding.

All **Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth, ***
O King of all the ages.

Officiant Who can fail to do you homage, Lord,
 and sing the praises of your Name? *
 for you only are the Holy One.

All **All nations will draw near and fall down before you, ***
because your just and holy works have been revealed.

Officiant Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Sequence Hymn 685 “Rock of Ages”

Rock of ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood
from thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure,
cleansing me from its guilt and power.

Should my tears for ever flow,
should my zeal no languor know,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save, and thou alone;
in my hand no price I bring,
simply to thy cross I cling.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyelids close in death,
when I rise to worlds unknown
and behold thee on thy throne,
Rock of ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

The Gospel **Matthew 5:1-12**

Officiant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.
All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is

great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Officiant Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
All **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon.....Ginnie Glassman

Apostles' Creed

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.**

The Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you

All **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer (*Officiant and People*)

All **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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Suffrages A

Officiant Show us your mercy, O Lord;
All **And grant us your salvation.**

Officiant Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
All **Let your people sing with joy.**

Officiant Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
All **For only in you can we live in safety.**

Officiant Lord, keep this nation under your care;
All **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

Officiant Let your way be known upon earth;
All **Your saving health among all nations.**

Officiant Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
All **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Officiant Create in us clean hearts, O God;
All **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

Solo Hymn "Great Are You Lord"by All Sons and Daughters

You give life, You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope, You restore
Every heart that is broken
And great are You, Lord

**It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only**

And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing
Great are You, Lord
And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry, these bones will say
Great are You, Lord

Collect

Officiant Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

Collect for the Renewal of Life

Officiant O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Intercessional Prayer

Officiant O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Intercessory Prayers

Reader As we begin this time of prayer for one another, our community, and our world, I invite any prayer requests for traveling, birthdays, anniversaries, or healing.

Celebrant prays for all prayer requests.

Reader We commend to your Goodness all those who are in any way afflicted or distressed in mind or body. Give them patience under the suffering and power of endurance. We pray especially this week for Justin, Evan, Grace, Anna, Max, Roger, Ellie, Rob, Doug, Sal, Maggie, Joanne, Stephen, Diane, Amanda, Albert, Bill, Tom, Peter, Sue, Susie, Craig, Sophia, Ron, Debbie, Nolan, Kris, Bud, Millie, Tom, Laura, Michelle, Eliane, Parrish, Peggy, Cindy, Martha, Laura, Richard, Doug, Bill, Jack, Cherry, and Cindy.

Reader We pray for all those who grieve the loss of a loved one.

Officiant O King of all the nations, only joy of every heart, keystone of the mighty arch who makes us one: Come and save the creature you fashioned from clay. Glory to you for ever.

All Amen.

Announcements and Collection

Calvary St. George Community Supper: We will be assembling the bags today after the service in the Parish Hall. Please stay to help if you can.

Ordination Ceremony! All are invited to attend the Ordination Ceremony for Deacon Erika! This special service will take place on Thursday, February 2nd at 7:00 p.m. at Christ Church Trumbull. Bishop Laura Ahrens will be the Celebrant. Food donations for the reception are welcomed – finger foods, cheese and crackers, vegetable platter, sandwich platter, etc.

Spirituality Monday: Our Meditation Group meets virtually the first and third Monday of each month. Our Prayer Group meets virtually on the second, fourth, and fifth Monday of the month. All are welcome to join. Please see the weekly eNews for the zoom link.

Coffee Hour Volunteers: We have open dates for volunteers to bring goodies to Coffee Hour. Please contact the parish office if you'd like to take a Sunday.

Bible Study: We are invited to join the Zoom Bible Study lead by Fr. Kevin Olds at St Timothy's in Fairfield. The group meets every Thursday from 7:30 to 8:30 PM. Currently, we are studying the book of the prophet Isaiah. Please see the

weekly eNews for the zoom link.

Winter Outreach: We are collecting new and/or gently used coats and outdoor clothing items for IRIS (Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services). Please bring your donated items to the Undercroft by Sunday, February 5th.

Valentine's Day Outreach: Please see the weekly eNews for the more information on this collection for clients of the Center for Family Justice (CFJ). Gift card donations are needed by Sunday, February 12th.

The General Thanksgiving

All **Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Officiant concludes

Officiant Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Closing Hymn 686 “Come Thou Fount”

Come, thou fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace!
Streams of mercy never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! O fix me on it,
mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I find my greatest treasure;
hither by thy help, I've come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee;
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, oh, take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.

Officiant Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.