

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP  
LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY  
BLANKET SUNDAY MONTH  
BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**FEBRUARY 14, 2021**

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

**PRELUDE**

**A PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

*God of fire and rain, you call us to you, you call on the soil beneath our feet, and it rises; you pull on our heartstrings, and our chests heave at the sound of your voice. Draw us near your merciful justice; we ache to be comforted by your presence. Set us apart from whatever would inhibit our most fervent adoration.*

*Amen.*

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**SENTENCES OF ADORATION**

**OPENING HYMN: DEAR GOD, EMBRACING HUMANKIND**

1 Dear God, embracing human-kind,  
forgive our foolish ways;  
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,  
in purer lives your service find,  
in deeper reverence, praise.

2 In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside  
the Syrian sea,  
The gracious calling of your word,  
let us, like them, be spirit stirred,  
rise up and followers be.

3 O sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above!  
There Jesus met you prayerfully:  
the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love.

4 Drop your still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of your peace.

5 Breathe through the pulses of desire  
your coolness and your balm;  
Let sense be numb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still, small voice of calm.

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

**Pastor:** We come to this place expecting God to meet us, to remind us of God's enduring presence, with us and within us.

**Unison:** **Let's take a moment to acknowledge God and the strength to worship within each person here.**

**Pastor:** Come, let us worship.

**REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE**

**CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:**

**Holy God, we confess that we make false gods of this world. We are eager to find hope in where we put our progress. We are quick to find our faith in systems that ensure our entitlement. We are tempted to find your sovereignty in situations we can control**

ourselves. Help us not to proclaim ourselves but to proclaim the light of the gospel and the glory of Christ. May Christ's light shine in our hearts and into the world. Amen.

**ASSURANCE**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:**

**Old Testament: II Kings 2:1 – 12**

**New Testament: Mark 9:2 – 9**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON: *Shifting Gears***

## **DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL AND WORK**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

**Jesus stays with us in the Spirit,  
who renews our hearts,  
moves us to faith,  
leads us in the truth,  
stands by us in our need,  
and makes our obedience fresh and vibrant.**

**The Spirit's gifts are here to stay  
in rich variety—fitting responses to timely needs.**

**We thankfully see each other  
as gifted members of the fellowship  
which delights in the creative Spirit's work.  
He gives more than enough to each believer  
for God's praise and our neighbor's welfare.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Pastor:** In the shadows of this world, working for a politic of justice; in the hunger of your people, speaking out for trade rules that are fair.

**Unison: May we be people of the transfiguration.**

**Pastor:** In the conflict of the world, living lives of peace; in the prejudice of our traditions, speaking words of inclusion and acceptance.

**Unison: May we be people of the transfiguration.**

**Pastor:** In the grieving of your people, being the presence of hope; in the propaganda of the nations, being the way of truth.

**Unison: May we be people of the transfiguration.**

**Pastor:** In the living of the faith, being the community of love; in the needs of your people, being the hands of heaven.

**Unison: May we be people of the transfiguration.**

**Pastor:** In the bad news of the papers, being the good news of God; in the ordinariness of the world, being the presence of your glory.

**Unison: May we be people of the transfiguration.**

*Pause for private intercessions*

Gracious God, as you have promised, may it come to pass.

We pray in Christ's name and offer the prayer He offered;

**Unison: 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

### **GIVE THANKS TO GOD**

#### **THE FELLOWSHIP OF SHARING PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Unison: God of glory, it is good for us to be in this place, to find shelter, to mark the occasion of your presence among us, to know that we are full of hope and aching with desire for you to stay with us, comfort us and provide the wisdom we need. In this, we offer ourselves fully. We offer time, talent, treasure. We offer one another the best of what we have to give and know you will know just how to use it for your glory. Amen.**

### **GO IN GOD'S NAME**

#### **CLOSING HYMN: *BEAUTIFUL JESUS***

1 Beautiful Jesus, Head of all creation,  
God and the blessed Mary's child: I want to love you,  
praise and adore you, joy of my soul, so long desired.

2 Beautiful springtime, lovely, green, and hopeful,  
all earth exhales its sweet perfume: Jesus is sweeter,  
Jesus is purer, sad hearts at this, rejoice and bloom.

3 Beautiful sunshine, clear, so lovely, moonlight,  
stars shine like angels, ranked through space: Jesus shines brighter,  
Jesus shines clearer, in perfect beauty, love, and grace.

4 All earthly beauty, all celestial radiance  
fade when compared to Jesus' face. Let me not cherish  
beauties that perish; let me this lovely good embrace.

#### **BENEDICTION POSTLUDE**

*Special thanks to Wes Koser and Matt Long for filming today's service and to Matt Wehr for filling in for Dennis Duda on the organ.*