

**Sixth Sunday after Epiphany  
February 12, 2023**

**Gathering**  
*God invites us to enter His presence*

**Prelude**


**Welcome & Announcements**

**Preparation for Worship** *(Time for Silent Preparation)*

 **Call to Worship** *(Responsively)*

*Jim Fox*

The earth is the Lord's, for he made it:  
**Come, let us adore him.**  
Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:  
**Come, let us adore him.**  
The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:  
**Come, let us adore him.**  
Lord, open our lips.  
**And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**

 **Invocation** *(Responsively)*

*Jim Fox*

God of goodness and grace,  
we long for your presence,  
for the peace your promises bring,  
and for the assurances we have received  
through the gift of your Son.  
**May we, your people,  
this day and every day,  
have open eyes to see  
and open ears to hear  
your presence among us.**  
Open us to your Holy Spirit, Lord,  
and prepare us for worship. **Amen.**

 **Hymn 10**

*O Worship the King*



**Confessing**  
**God invites us to be honest with Him**

**Call to Confession**

*Jim Fox*

In spite of God's love for us and gift of love to us,  
we often act in destructive and hateful ways.  
We close our hearts to God and disobey God's law.  
Together let us confess our sin.

**Prayer of Confession** *(Responsively)*

*Jim Fox*

Merciful God,  
you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.  
We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.  
We have not loved you with a pure heart,  
nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves.  
We have not done justice, loved kindness,  
or walked humbly with you, our God.  
Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness.  
In your great compassion,  
cleanse us from our sin.  
**Create in us a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within us.  
Do not cast us from your presence,  
or take your Holy Spirit from us.  
Restore to us the joy of your salvation  
and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**Time for Silent Confession**

**Assurance of Pardon** *(Responsively)*

*Jim Fox*

God demonstrates his own love for us in this:  
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.  
**For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,  
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.  
Therefore, since we have been justified through faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord*  
**All: Thanks be to God!**



**Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
And to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now and ever shall be, world without end.  
A-men, A-men.*



### Offering

***Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him***

**Invitation**      Do good and share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

### **Offering**

**Offertory**                      *Learning to Lean*                      *Stallings*  
   *Dennis Leshar*

### **Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men*

### **Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, everything we have comes from you.  
You fill us with good things. Our hearts and lives overflow  
with your abundance. With thanksgiving, we bring to you our  
time, talents, and tithes. Use these gifts that you have given  
us to feed others as we have been fed, to serve others as we  
have been served, and to bless others as we have been  
blessed, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

**New Members**                      *Linda Smith,      Marjorie Cockerham*

Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of  
God and without hope for your salvation except in His  
sovereign mercy? **I do.**

Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and  
the Savior of sinners, and do you receive and depend upon Him  
alone for your salvation as He is offered in the gospel? **I do.**

Do you now promise and resolve, in humble reliance upon the  
grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes  
the followers of Christ? **I do.**

Do you promise to serve Christ in His Church by supporting  
and participating with this congregation in its service of God  
and its ministry to others to the best of your ability? **I do.**

Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church and to the spiritual oversight  
of this Church Session, and do you promise to promote the  
unity, purity and peace of the Church? **I do.**



## Psalm 126

### Verse 1

*Our mouths, they were filled  
Filled with laughter;  
Our tongues, they were loosed,  
Loosed with joy.  
Restore us, O Lord.  
Restore us, O Lord.*

### Chorus

*Although we are weeping,  
Lord, help us keep sowing  
The seeds of Your kingdom  
For the day You will reap them!  
Your sheaves we will carry, Lord, please do not tarry!  
All those who sow weeping  
Will go out with songs of joy!*

### Verse 2

*The nations will say,  
“He has done great things!”  
The nations will sing  
Songs of joy.  
Restore us, O Lord.  
Restore us, O Lord.*

### Chorus (2x)

## Proclaiming

### **God speaks to us through His Word**

**Children’s Sermon**

*It all Depends on the Dirt*

*Celia Weber*

## **Scripture Reading**

Mark 4:1-9; 13-20

**4** Again he began to teach by the sea, and a very large crowd gathered around him. So he got into a boat on the sea and sat down, while the whole crowd was by the sea on the shore. <sup>2</sup> He taught them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them, <sup>3</sup> “Listen! Consider the sower who went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> As he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. <sup>5</sup> Other seed fell on rocky ground where it didn’t have much soil, and it grew up quickly, since the soil wasn’t deep. <sup>6</sup> When the sun came up, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered

away. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it didn’t produce fruit. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good ground and it grew up, producing fruit that increased thirty, sixty, and a hundred times.” <sup>9</sup> Then he said, “Let anyone who has ears to hear listen.”

<sup>13</sup> Then he said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand all of the parables? <sup>14</sup> The sower sows the word. <sup>15</sup> Some are like the word sown on the path. When they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word sown in them. <sup>16</sup> And others are like seed sown on rocky ground. When they hear the word, immediately they receive it with joy. <sup>17</sup> But they have no root; they are short-lived. When distress or persecution comes because of the word, they immediately fall away. <sup>18</sup> Others are like seed sown among thorns; these are the ones who hear the word, <sup>19</sup> but the



worries of this age, the deceitfulness of wealth, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. <sup>20</sup> And those like seed sown on good ground hear the word, welcome it, and produce fruit thirty, sixty, and a hundred times what was sown.”

## **Sermon**

*“Parable of the Sower”  
Rev. Tim Latham*

## **Responding We respond to God's Word**



Jesus, Firm Foundation

How firm a foundation you saints of the Lord  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word  
What more can He say than to you He has said  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled

Verse 2

Fear not He is with us O be not dismayed  
For He is our God our Sustainer and Strength  
He'll be our Defender and cause us to stand  
Upheld by His merciful almighty hand

Chorus

How firm our foundation  
How sure our salvation  
And we will not be shaken  
Jesus firm foundation

Verse 3

The soul that is trusting in Jesus as Lord  
Will press on enduring the darkest of storm  
And though even hell should endeavor to shake  
He'll never no never no never forsake  
He'll never no never no never forsake

Chorus

Bridge

Age to age He stands faithful to the end  
All may fade away but  
He will remain He will remain

Chorus



**Profession of Faith** (Romans 8)

**We believe there is no condemnation  
for those who are in Christ Jesus;  
for we know that all things work together for good  
for those who love God,**



who are called according to God's purpose.  
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Commissioning**

*God sends us out into the world as His witnesses*



**Hymn 6**

*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*



**Benediction & Blessing**

*This morning's Prayer Partners are  
Bonnie Mecaughey, Dennis Lesher*



**Postlude**