

**St. Mark's Presbyterian Church**  
**Second Sunday after the Epiphany – January 14, 2024**

**Responsive Call to Worship**

Before we were born, God knew us.

**God knit us together in the womb.**

God searches out our paths, and tracks us along our way.

**So we praise God, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made.**

There is nowhere we can go where God is not with us.

**How wonderful are all God's works! Let us worship God together.**

**Hymn 699      All the way my Saviour leads me**

**1. All the way my Saviour leads me;  
what have I to ask beside?  
Can I doubt his tender mercy  
who through life has been my guide?  
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,  
here by faith in him to dwell;  
for I know, whate'er befall me  
Jesus doeth all things well.**

**2. All the way my Saviour leads me,  
cheers each winding path I tread,  
gives me grace for every trial,  
feeds me with the living bread.  
Though my weary steps may falter,  
and my soul athirst may be,  
gushing from the rock before me,  
lo, a spring of joy I see.**

**3. All the way my Saviour leads me,  
oh the fullness of his love!  
Perfect rest to me is promised  
in my Father's house above.  
When my spirit, clothed immortal,  
wings its flight to realms of day,  
this my song through endless ages,  
'Jesus led me all the way!'**

**Prayer of Praise**      *(minister)*

**Hymn 767**      **Lord, speak to me**

- 1. Lord, speak to me, that I may speak  
in living echoes of your tone;  
as you have sought, so let me seek  
your erring children lost and lone.**
- 2. Oh lead me, Lord, that I may lead  
the wandering and the wavering feet;  
oh feed me, Lord, that I may feed  
your hungering ones with manna sweet.**
- 3. Oh teach me, Lord, that I may teach  
the precious truths that you impart,  
and wing my words, that they may reach  
the hidden depths of many a heart.**
- 4. Oh fill me with your fullness, Lord,  
until my heart shall overflow  
in kindling thought and glowing word,  
your love to tell, your praise to show.**
- 5. Oh use me, Lord, use even me  
just as you will, and when, and where,  
until at last your face I see,  
your rest, your joy, your glory share.**

**Prayer of Confession (congregation)**

**O God, we confess and ask you to forgive us for our failures and sins. We admit that while you are always present, we lose sight of you in the rush of our lives. We forget to place our troubles at your feet, and instead carry on as if we are the ones sustaining our lives by our strength alone. We fear the cost of your call to kindness and generosity and behave in thoughtless and selfish ways with others. Forgive us.**

**- silent confession -**

**The Lord's Prayer (Debts/Debtors)**

**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, the power, and the glory. For ever  
and ever. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**                      *(minister)*

**Hymn 442**        **Speak, Lord, in the stillness**

**1. Speak, Lord, in the stillness,  
speak your word to me;  
hushed my heart to listen  
in expectancy.**

**2. Speak, O gracious Master,  
in this quiet hour;  
let me see your face, Lord,  
feel your touch of power.**

**3. For the words you give me  
they are life indeed;  
living bread from heaven,  
now my spirit feed.**

**4. Speak, your servant listens,  
be not silent, Lord;  
let me know your presence;  
let your voice be heard.**

**5. Fill me with the knowledge  
of your glorious will;  
all your own good pleasure  
in my life fulfil.**

**Responsive Reading**        **Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18**

<sup>1</sup>O Lord, you have examined my heart  
and know everything about me.

**<sup>2</sup>You know when I sit down or stand up.**

**You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.**

<sup>3</sup>You see me when I travel  
and when I rest at home.

You know everything I do.

**<sup>4</sup>You know what I am going to say  
even before I say it, Lord.**

<sup>5</sup>You go before me and follow me.

You place your hand of blessing on my head.

**<sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too great for me to understand!**

<sup>13</sup>You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body  
and knit me together in my mother's womb.

**<sup>14</sup>Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!  
Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.**

<sup>15</sup>You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion,  
as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.

**<sup>16</sup>You saw me before I was born.  
Every day of my life was recorded in your book.  
Every moment was laid out  
before a single day had passed.**

<sup>17</sup>How precious are your thoughts about me, O God.  
They cannot be numbered!

**<sup>18</sup>I can't even count them;  
they outnumber the grains of sand!  
And when I wake up,  
you are still with me!**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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## Scripture Lessons

1 Samuel 3:1-10

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

***People: Thanks be to God!***

## Sermon Still calling

### Prayers of the People *(minister)*

### Hymn 672 Jesus calls us, o'er the tumult

**1. Jesus calls us o'er the tumult  
of our life's wild restless sea;  
day by day his voice still calls us  
saying, "Christian, follow me."**

**2. As of old Saint Andrew heard it  
by the Galilean lake,  
turned from home and work and kindred,  
leaving all for Jesus' sake.**

3. Jesus calls us from the worship  
of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us,  
saying, "Christian, love me more."

4. In our joys and in our sorrows,  
days of toil and hours of ease,  
Jesus calls, in cares and pleasures,  
"Christian, love me more than these."

5. Jesus calls us: by your mercies,  
Saviour, may we hear your call,  
give our hearts in glad obedience,  
serve and love you best of all.

### Offering Announcement

#### Prayer of Dedication (congregation)

God of new possibilities, in Christ you create a future for each of us, inviting us to flourish in our faith. Use us and the gifts we offer to create new possibilities for those who are uncertain about what the future holds. For we trust that you hold the future for us all. Amen.

#### Hymn 794 Abide with me

1. Abide with me! Fast falls the eventide;  
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;  
when other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
help of the helpless, oh abide with me.

2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away.  
Change and decay in all around I see.  
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

3. I need thy presence every passing hour.  
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who like thyself my guide and strength can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

4. I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless,  
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

**5. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes.  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.  
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;  
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

**Benediction**

**Three-fold Amen**

**Piano Postlude**