

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Third Sunday after the Epiphany – January 21, 2024

Responsive Call to Worship

God our rock and our salvation.

We will not be shaken!

Trust in God at all times, O people.

We will pour out our hearts to God, our refuge.

Today, let us turn to God and accept the good news.

We will listen for Christ's call and follow him.

Hymn 685 How firm a foundation

**1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!
What more can God say than to you hath been said,
to you that for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**2. 'Fear not, I am with thee; oh be not dismayed!
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee and cause thee to stand
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**3. 'When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of woe shall not thee over flow,
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.**

**4. 'When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply:
the flames shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.**

**5. 'The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!'**

Prayer of Praise (*minister*)

Hymn 330 O God, our help in ages past

**1. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,**

and our eternal home.

**2. Under the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.**

**3. Be fore the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.**

**4. A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.**

**5. Time, like an everrolling stream,
bears all our years away.
They fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.**

**6. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.**

Prayer of Confession (congregation)

**God of all the ages, we gather in worship week by week,
hoping to encounter your presence. But we confess it's not
easy to hear your voice. Sometimes we get distracted by
what's happening around us. Sometimes we get confused by
conflicting views of what you expect from us. Sometimes we
feel challenged and resist a new word from you. We confess
it is hard to turn our lives around when we think we already
know where we're going. Lord, have mercy upon 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 451 Dear Father, Lord of humankind

- 1. Dear Father, Lord of humankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind;
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.**
- 2. In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.**
- 3. O sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
where Je sus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love.**
- 4. With that deep hush subduing all
our words and works that drown
the ten der whisper of thy call,
as noiseless let thy blessing fall
as fell thy manna down.**
- 5. Drop Thy 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 Thy peace.**
- 6. Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and Thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 62:5-12 p. 509 NT & Psalms

⁵Let all that I am wait quietly before God,
for my hope is in him.

**⁶He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress where I will not be shaken.**

⁷My victory and honor come from God alone.
He is my refuge, a rock where no enemy can reach me.

**⁸O my people, trust in him at all times.
Pour out your heart to him,
for God is our refuge.**

⁹Common people are as worthless as a puff of wind,
and the powerful are not what they appear to be.
If you weigh them on the scales,
together they are lighter than a breath of air.

**¹⁰Don't make your living by extortion
or put your hope in stealing.
And if your wealth increases,
don't make it the center of your life.**

¹¹God has spoken plainly,
and I have heard it many times:

**¹²Power, O God, belongs to you;
unfailing love, O Lord, is yours.
Surely you repay all people
according to what they have done.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Jonah 3:1–5, 10 p. 754 pew Bible

1 Corinthians 7:29–31 p. 291 NT & Psalms

Mark 1:14–20 p. 61 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Just because you are called . . .

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Hymn 677 My faith looks up to Thee

**1. My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Saviour divine:
now hear me when I pray;**

take all my guilt away;
oh let me from this day
be wholly thine.

2. May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart;
my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me,
oh may my love to thee
pure, warm and changeless be,
a living fire.

3. While life's dark maze I tread,
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.

4. When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold sullen stream
shall o'er me roll,
blest Saviour, then, in love,
fear and distrust remove;
oh bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul.

Offering & Offertory

***Doxology 830 Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Prayer of Dedication (congregation)

Lord Jesus, you called ordinary human beings to join in the work of God's reign on earth. We offer you our gifts to share in the work you began through them. Bless our gifts and work through us, that the world may know your love is still active among us all. Amen.

Hymn 640 Softly and tenderly

**1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me:
patiently Jesus is waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.**

Refrain:

**“Come home, (come home,) come home, (come home),
ye who are weary, come home”;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, O sinner, “Come home!”**

**2. Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me?**

Refrain:

**“Come home, (come home,) come home, (come home),
ye who are weary, come home”;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, O sinner, “Come home!”**

**3. Oh for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me;
though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me.**

Refrain:

**“Come home, (come home,) come home, (come home),
ye who are weary, come home”;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, O sinner, “Come home!”**

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Piano Postlude