

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany – January 28, 2024

Responsive Call to Worship

God's praise endures forever,

and eternity meets us in fleeting moments.

God's praise endures forever,

and glory bursts into ordinary activities.

God's praise endures forever,

and faith is steadfast in the midst of change and challenge. Let us worship the Eternal God who calls us to this time and place.

Hymn 433 All creatures of our God and King

1. All creatures of our God and King

lift up your voice and with us sing:

sing praises, hallelujah!

O brother sun with golden beam,

O sister moon with silver gleam,

sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah

2. Wild wind, unbounded, strong,

high clouds that sail in heaven along,

sing praises, hallelujah!

New rising dawn in praise rejoice,

kind lights of evening, find a voice:

sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah

3. Deep flowing water, pure and clear,

make music for your God to hear,

sing praises, hallelujah!

Fierce fire so masterful and bright,

pierce now the dark with heat and light,

sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah

4. Dear mother earth, who day by day,

brings forth your blessings on our way,

sing praises, hallelujah!

All flowers and fruits that in you grow,

let them God's glory also show,

sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah

**5. Let everyone of tender heart,
forgiving others, take their part,
sing praises, hallelujah!**

**All who long pain and sorrow bear,
give God your burdens and your care,
sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah**

**6. Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship God in humbleness,
sing praises, hallelujah!**

**Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three-in-One
sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah**

Prayer of Praise *(minister)*

Hymn 642 **O Master, let me walk with thee**

**1. O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.**

**2. Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.**

**3. Teach me thy patience; still with thee
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,**

**4. in hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Master, let me live.**

Prayer of Confession (congregation)

**Paul says what is most essential in our conduct as Christians
is not knowledge, but love. So, we confess the times when
we used knowledge to put people down rather than build
them up. We confess seeing people exploited because of
their ignorance and doing nothing. We confess that we have**

idolized knowledge at the expense of loving and caring for others.

- 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 644 May the mind of Christ my Saviour

**1. May the mind of Christ, my Saviour
live in me from day to day,
Jesus' love and power controlling
All I do and say.**

**2. May the word of God dwell richly
in my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph
only through his power.**

**3. May the peace of God, my Sovereign
rule my life in everything,
that I may be calm to comfort
sick and sorrowing.**

**4. May the love of Jesus fill me,
as the waters fill the sea:
Christ exalting, self denying,
this is victory.**

**5. May I run the race before me,
strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus
as I onward go.**

Responsive Reading

Psalm 111 p. 561 NT & Psalms

¹Praise the Lord!

I will thank the Lord with all my heart
as I meet with his godly people.

²How amazing are the deeds of the Lord!

All who delight in him should ponder them.

³Everything he does reveals his glory and majesty.
His righteousness never fails.

⁴He causes us to remember his wonderful works.

How gracious and merciful is our Lord!

⁵He gives food to those who fear him;
he always remembers his covenant.

**⁶He has shown his great power to his people
by giving them the lands of other nations.**

⁷All he does is just and good,
and all his commandments are trustworthy.

**⁸They are forever true,
to be obeyed faithfully and with integrity.**

⁹He has paid a full ransom for his people.
He has guaranteed his covenant with them forever.
What a holy, awe-inspiring name he has!

¹⁰Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true wisdom.

All who obey his commandments will grow in wisdom.

Praise him forever!

New Living Translation (NLT)

Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation

Scripture Lessons

Deuteronomy 18:15–20 p. 154 pew Bible

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 p. 292 NT & Psalms

Mark 1:21-28 p. 62 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Rules or freedom?

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Hymn 407 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven

**1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?**

Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,

praise the everlasting King.

2. Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him, still the same forever,
slow to chide and swift to bless;
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
glorious in his faithfulness.

3. Fatherlike he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
widely as his mercy flows.

4. Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
blows the wind and it is gone,
but, while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on:
praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
praise the high eternal One.

5. Angels, help us to adore him,
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space,
praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
praise with us the God of grace.

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, we bring our gifts to you, asking you to bless them so that they may accomplish more than we can ask or imagine. Bless us, too, so that our lives speak of our choice

to follow you, offering others the healing and hope you have offered us. Amen.

Hymn 357 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

**1. How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear;
it soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds
and drives away our fear.**

**2. It makes the wounded spirit whole,
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary rest.**

**3. Dear name! the rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding place,
my never-failing treasury,
filled with boundless stores of grace.**

**4. Jesus, my shepherd, guardian, friend,
my prophet, priest and king,
my Lord, my life, my way, my end:
accept the praise I bring.**

**5. How weak the effort of my heart,
how cold my warmest thought,
but when I see thee as thou art
I'll praise thee as I ought.**

**6. Till then I would thy love proclaim
with every fleeting breath,
and may the music of thy name
refresh my soul in death.**

Choral Blessing

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will be with you each hour of every day.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Piano Postlude