

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany – February 4, 2024

Responsive Call to Worship

God has invited us to come.

So, we gather.

God has spoken to the world.

So, we listen.

God has given us glimpses of grace and mercy.

So, we wait and watch, longing for healing, eager for hope.

God has been faithful to all generations.

**So, we trust. And so, we worship God, our Creator,
Redeemer, and Sustainer.**

Hymn 434 For the beauty of the earth

**1. For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

**2. For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

**3. For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

**4. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,**

**Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

**5. For each perfect gift of thine,
to the earth so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

Prayer of Praise *(minister)*

Hymn 457 **Now thank we all our God**

**1. Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom God's world rejoices,
who from our mother's arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.**

**2. Oh may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with everjoyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all with grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.**

**3. All praise and thanks to God
who reigns in highest heaven,
the Father and the Son
and Spirit now be given,
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore,
for thus it was, is now
and shall be evermore.**

Prayer of Confession (congregation)

**Almighty God, you love us, even if we have not loved you; you
call, even if we do not listen. We can walk away from**

neighbours who need us, wrapped up in our own concerns. We can go along with evil, pride, quarrelling, and divisiveness. Holy God help us to face up to ourselves as you move toward us in mercy. May we repent and receive mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 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 55 God moves in a mysterious way

**1. God moves in a mysterious way
his wonders to perform;
he plants his footsteps in the sea,
and rides upon the storm.**

**2. Deep in unfathomable mines
of never failing skill
he treasures up his bright designs,
and works his sovereign will.**

**3. Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
the clouds ye so much dread
are big with mercy, and shall break
in blessings on your head.**

**4. Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
but trust him for his grace;
behind a frowning providence
he hides a smiling face.**

**5. His purposes will ripen fast,
unfolding every hour;
the bud may have a bitter taste,**

but sweet will be the flower.

**6. Blind unbelief is sure to err,
and scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter,
and he will make it plain.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 147:1-11, 20c p. 589 NT & Psalms

¹Praise the Lord!

How good to sing praises to our God!

How delightful and how fitting!

**²The Lord is rebuilding Jerusalem
and bringing the exiles back to Israel.**

³He heals the brokenhearted
and bandages their wounds.

**⁴He counts the stars
and calls them all by name.**

⁵How great is our Lord! His power is absolute!
His understanding is beyond comprehension!

**⁶The Lord supports the humble,
but he brings the wicked down into the dust.**

⁷Sing out your thanks to the Lord;
sing praises to our God with a harp.

**⁸He covers the heavens with clouds,
provides rain for the earth,
and makes the grass grow in mountain pastures.**

⁹He gives food to the wild animals
and feeds the young ravens when they cry.

**¹⁰He takes no pleasure in the strength of a horse
or in human might.**

¹¹No, the Lord's delight is in those who fear him,
those who put their hope in his unfailing love.

²⁰Praise the Lord!

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Foundation

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 40:21-31 p. 587 pew Bible

1 Corinthians 9:16-23 p. 294 New Testament & Psalms

Mark 1:29-39 p. 62 New Testament & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Does he know who he is?

Prayers of the People (minister)

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)

Generous God, we bring our offering to you, trusting that you will bless our gifts and use them in ways we cannot even imagine. Jesus touched so many lives in so many ways. We ask that these gifts will touch many lives, too, with your healing and hope in these times. Amen.

Communion Hymn 537 Twas on that night

**1. 'Twas on that night when doomed to know
the eager rage of every foe,
that night in which he was betrayed,
the Savior of the world took bread,**

**2. and after thanks and glory given
to God who rules in earth and heaven,
that symbol of his flesh he broke,
and thus to all his followers spoke:**

**3. "My broken body thus I give
for you, for all; take, eat, and live;
and oft the sacred rite renew
that brings my wondrous love to view."**

**4. Then in his hands the cup he raised,
and God anew he thanked and praised;
the fullness of God's grace he showed
and from his lips salvation flowed.**

**5. "My blood I thus pour forth," he cries,
"to cleanse the soul in sin that lies;
in this the covenant is sealed,**

and heaven's eternal grace revealed."

**6. "With suffering love this cup is given;
let all partake the wine of heaven,
and when you gather, let it pour,
in living memory of this hour."**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right and our greatest joy, Gracious and Loving God, to give you thanks and praise for your works are great and your ways are just and true. At your loving word all things were made and the beauty of creation was called from chaos. Through your word, you formed us in your image and gave us life. By your word, you called us to love and to serve you and to live in peace with you and all that you have made. Though we turn from you, you do not turn from us. When we are captive, you give us freedom. When we are confused and stray from you, you give us faith to go in search of deeper understanding. When we are tempted to find easy and false comfort in idols, the challenging truth of your presence draws us into deeper relationship. And so we join our voices with your people of every time and place in joyful praise of you:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We praise you and give you thanks for sending your loving and beloved son into the world. Conceived by the Holy Spirit, he brings new life. Born of Mary's flesh he knew joy, pain, love, and loss. Touching the sick, he heals us. Breaking bread and sharing the cup with those on the margins, he shows his love and welcome for all. Dying on the cross, he is with us in our suffering. Rising from the grave, he brings new life. In Him, you

have reconciled us and you lead us out of fantasy into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. Remembering all these things, we gather at his invitation to break bread and share the cup and to proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.**

Gracious and giving God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered around your holy table, and on these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and the blood of Christ, and that we, being nourished by them, may be for the world the body of Christ, made strong, made new, and redeemed by his blood.

And now through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, all honour and glory are yours, Creator and Sustainer of all. Glory to you forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Pouring of the Cup

The Revelation

Partaking of the Bread

Partaking of the Cup

Prayer after Communion (Unison)

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 363 All hail the power of Jesus' name

**1. All hail the power of Jesus' name;
let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem to
crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.**

**2. Crown him, ye martyrs of your God,
who from his altar call;
extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod, and
crown him, crown him, crown him,**

crown him Lord of all.

**3. Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
ye ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace, and
crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.**

**4. Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
the wormwood and the gall,
go, spread your trophies at his feet, and
crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.**

**5. Let every tribe and every tongue,
responsive to the call,
lift high the universal song, and
crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.**

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