

WE GATHER

“BEING WITH GOD UNDER THE CANOPY”

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY:

FEBRUARY 7th, 2021

Introduction:

Music:

Territorial Acknowledgment:

Lighting of the Christ Candle

WE ENTER INTO GOD’S PRESENCE

***Call to Worship & Opening Prayer**

Creator of life,
we gather under your canopy of grace,
thanking you for your unfailing mercy.
Your grace is both expansive and inclusive,
spanning from birth to eternity.
You sustain us from our birthing day, when we celebrate milestones
and as our earthly journeys end.
Your love is unfailing and your mercy is sure through the
varied seasons.
Your kindness and generosity pursues us all the days of our lives.
Bless us as we seek to be grounded in your love. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: “Jesus Hands were Kind Hands” VU#570

Confession: (Elizabeth Henderson)

Forgive us loving God.
When overwhelmed by the cares of this world,
it is as if we are swept up by the storm.
When nerves are raw
and our hearts are ripped apart by searing pain,
give us the wisdom to pause and seek out the quiet centre.

Words of Assurance: (Elizabeth Henderson)

God is with us for the journey.
In life, in death, in life beyond death.
We are not alone!
Rest under God’s canopy of grace.

THE WORD

One: Your Word is a lamp to our feet;

All: And a light on our path.

Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love. Amen.

Reading:

Isaiah 40: 21-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
It is Creator who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
Creator brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.
Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
‘My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God’?
Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;

his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

One: The Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Mark 1: 29-39 (The Van Meers)

Jesus Heals Many at Simon's House

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

Jesus chooses to be with God

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

ALL: Glory to you O Christ.

Prayer of Invocation: "Spirit of Life, Come unto me" VU#381

Reflection: "Being with God under the canopy."

Hymn of Ascription: "Come and Find the Quiet Centre" VU#374
(piano solo)

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Announcements:

Invitation to offer of ourselves:

Offertory Blessing:

**Creator God transform our offerings,
so they may become instruments of your compassion,
for the sake of your kingdom.**

Help us to bless your world.

In Jesus's name we pray, Amen.

The Memory Candle: (Elizabeth Henderson)

Holy Communion:

SENT TO SHOW CHRIST'S LOVE

Hymn: "Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands" MV#173

Benediction:

Go with the blessing of the Triune God:
Now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you,
this day and always. **Amen.**

Go now in peace:

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, stead-fast, strong and true.

Know God will guide you in all you do.

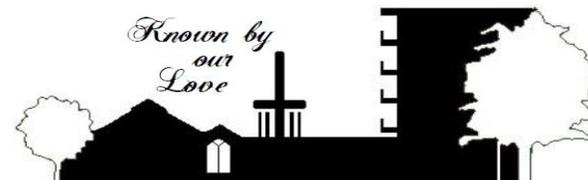
Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there watching from above.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Postlude



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