

SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

January 20, 2021 and January 23, 2021



“Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters... that you be united in
the same mind and the same purpose”

~ 1 Corinthians 1:10 (NRSV)



THIRD WEEK AFTER EPIPHANY

Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG

“LEAD US FROM DEATH TO LIFE (REFRAIN X 2)”

NCH 581

**Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our universe.**

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GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

When fear is holding you back,

Come and see, and follow Christ.

When despair has brought you down,

Lift up your head, and follow Christ.

When all seems lost and the world is too harsh,

Take his hand, and follow Christ.

In this time of worship

Let us follow Jesus, and know that Jesus is with us.

Christ has come before us, Christ is with us, and Christ will come again. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“LEAD US FROM DEATH TO LIFE (ST. 1-2)”

NCH 581

**Still all the angry cries, still all the angry guns,
Still now your people die, earth’s sons and daughters.
Let justice roll, let mercy pour down,
Come and teach us your way of compassion.**

[Refrain]

**Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our universe.**

**So many lonely hearts, so many broken lives,
Longing for love to break into their darkness.**

**Come, teach us love, come, teach us peace,
Come and teach us your way of compassion.**

[Refrain]

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Service of the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

1 CORINTHIANS 1:4-17

NRSV

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. Hear what God is saying to the people. **Thanks be to God!**

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

STUDENT MINISTER

Let us implore the Lord our God praying,
“Create in us clean hearts, O God,
and renew your right spirit within us.”

We pray for leaders of the Church.
May they serve as examples
of integrity, love, peacekeeping, and justice-making.
May the Church place its hope in you, O God of the oppressed,
and not in human wisdom.

Silence

**Create in us clean hearts, O God,
and renew your right spirit within us.**

We pray for the leaders of the nations and for the new leaders of this nation.
May they show mercy and advocate for the rights of the people.
May they, like Moses, seek the greater good rather than their own interests.

Silence

**Create in us clean hearts, O God,
and renew your right spirit within us.**

We pray for the sick, the anxious and the sorrowful.
Make them hear of joy and gladness,
that broken bodies and broken spirits may rejoice.

Silence

**Create in us clean hearts, O God,
and renew your right spirit within us.**

We trust to your mercy, O God, all who have died.
May they rest eternally in your peace.
To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, our God,
be honor and glory forever and ever.

Silence

**Create in us clean hearts, O God,
and renew your right spirit within us.**

May you transform this season of tumult into your vision of peace,
not a negative peace, which is the absence of conflict, but a positive peace of
justice being done, the last becoming first, and the wicked falling by their own
snares.

Silence

**Create in us clean hearts, O God,
and renew your right spirit within us.**

May all who fear harassment and discrimination know equality;
may innocent black, brown, and indigenous people be treated with the same
restraint afforded white insurrectionists.
May queer, trans, and gender non-conforming people be allowed to live authentic
lives of joy in the public square.

Silence

**Create in us clean hearts, O God,
and renew your right spirit within us.**

May you grant a special measure of your presence to those people and situations
our community names before you...

Silence

Create in us clean hearts, O God,
and renew your right spirit within us.

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

CLOSING SONG

“LEAD US FROM DEATH TO LIFE (ST. 3)”

NCH 581

**Let justice ever roll, let mercy fill the earth,
Let us begin to grow into your people.
We can be love, we can bring peace,
We can still be your way of compassion.**

[Refrain]

**Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our universe.**

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BENEDICTION

SENDING & POSTLUDE

*Go and search diligently where God resides,
And pay homage to all in whom the Spirit lives.*

Cover Art: *World Peace Wall*, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57232> [retrieved July 8, 2020]. Original source:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:7920jfWorld_Peace_Bell_Quezon_Memorial_Circlefvf_03.JPG.

Call to Worship: Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, Rev-o-lution Blog, <http://rev-o-lution.org/2014/01/10/worship-resources-for-january-19th-2014-second-sunday-after-epiphany/>, accessed July 9, 2020.

Prayer of Illumination: Caldwell Presbyterian Church, “Prayers for Illumination (for Scripture Readers),”

<http://www.caldwellpresby.org/docs/resources/Prayers%20for%20Illumination.pdf>

Prayer of the Community: original written by Father Jeremiah Williamson, adapted and expanded by Seminary Chapel Team,

<http://jeremiahwilliamson.blogspot.ca/>, accessed July 9, 2020.

Communion Liturgy: Modified “Triple Praise” – A Eucharist Liturgy by Gail Ramshaw from *Celebrate God’s Presence: A Book of Services with Adaptations*.

Hymn: Text: Refrain Upanishads, Satish Kumar; verses, Marty Haugen; Tune: Marty Haugen © 1985, GIA Publications, Inc.

***The worship planning team creates all other parts of the liturgy except where noted.**

LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WORSHIP TEAM

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THE WORSHIP TEAM SEEKS:

To serve the universal church of our Creator.

To minister to the unique and diverse needs of the seminary community.

To foster an expansive culture of worship that values difference and challenges the normative.