

Order of Service
Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 23, 2022

Prelude

Announcements

Welcome

In this time and place, we gather on the unceded ancestral lands of the shíshálh Nation.
With people from many places and times, we come to this house of prayer.

In this time and place, we meet in the presence of the living God.
The living God who creates us and all that is.

In this time and place, the risen Christ stands in our midst.,
The risen Christ who accompanies us and all people.

In this time and place, God's Holy Spirit breathes in and through us.
The Holy Spirit who transforms us and all life.

In this time and place, together, one people of God.
In the name of God, Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Gathering

Gathering Hymn #519 – Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

Prayer of the Day

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn and ponder them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through you Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Word

First Reading is from Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10

¹All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the

ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Word of God, word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 19 (Read antiphonally)

¹The heavens declare the glo-¹ry of God,
and the sky proclaims its¹ maker's handiwork.

²**One day tells its tale¹ to another,
and one night imparts knowledge¹ to another.**

³Although they have no¹ words or language,
and their voices¹ are not heard,

⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends¹ of the world,
where God has pitched a tent¹ for the sun.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out¹ of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to¹ run its course.

⁶**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of¹ it again;
nothing is hidden from its¹ burning heat. R**

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re-¹vives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom¹ to the simple.

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and re-¹joice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light¹ to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and en-¹dures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous¹ altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than¹ much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey¹ in the comb. R**

¹¹By them also is your ser-¹vant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is¹ great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one's¹ own offenses?
Cleanse me from my¹ secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion¹ over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a¹ great offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable¹ in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and¹ my redeemer. R**

The second reading is from I Corinthians 12:12-31a

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a}But strive for the greater gifts.

Word of God, word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation – Pg 216 (at the front of the hymnal) sung

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.

The holy gospel according to Luke 4:14-21 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day - #710 Let Streams of Living Justice

The Pilgrims Creed

We are a community of faith.

**We share a vision of God: a God whose spirit is love,
accessible to all yet beyond our knowing, the source of all being,
the way leading to wholeness, the spirit which pervades everything.**

**We are reborn in the Spirit, followers of that Way shown by Jesus:
to love God with our whole being; to love our neighbours as ourselves;
to treat others as we would have them treat us; to strive for justice and peace;
to have respect and compassion for every person and for the whole of creation;
to forgive those who do us harm; to love one another as Christ has loved us.**

We journey together on this Way towards reconciliation with the whole creation.

We break bread together and pray together.

We reach out to one another for strength beyond our own.

This is our community. This is our faith.

Prayers of Intercession

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

A brief silence.

You reveal yourself to us in the reading of scripture. Fulfill your word through the faithful witness of your church. Send us out to bring your liberating good news to all people. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

All creation proclaims your handiwork. Teach us to love the intricate and beautiful bodies that you have created. Bless tiny insects, enormous whales, and every creature in between. Sustain species at risk of extinction. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You desire that there be no dissension among us. Where we are divided in our society, nation, or world, come quickly to reunite us into one body. Ease conflict, dispel violence, and bring an end to war. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Anoint with your Spirit all who seek your favor. Grant provision and justice for people living in poverty, people living with disability, those imprisoned, those living with pain, or those living under oppression (*especially*).

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Build up the body of Christ in this place. Bless the variety of ministries in this congregation (*especially*).

Empower us to freely welcome and deeply value each person who enters into worship and ministry among us.

Help us to live joyfully so that others may also do so. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

In thanksgiving we lift before you the saints for whom the promise of salvation has now been fulfilled. Tend to those who mourn and those who suffer illness (*especially*). Bring us together in your everlasting glory. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Music for Reflection

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Receive the Offering

Canticle of Thanksgiving - #836 – Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Thanksgiving for the Word – page 220 at
the front of your hymnal

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen**

Lord's Prayer – sung

Sending

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen**

Sending hymn - #551 The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

Dismissal

Go in peace, Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude