

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024 11:15 A.M.
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

GATHERING SONG

ANNOUNCEMENTS *Rev. Jason Christ, Associate Pastor*

WELCOME *Rev. Dr. Charles E. Whited, Jr., Lead Pastor*

Opening Songs *(Stand)*

Your Name

Verse 1

As morning dawns and evening fades
You inspire songs of praise
That rise from earth to touch Your heart
And glorify Your Name

Chorus

Your Name is a strong and mighty tower
Your Name is a shelter like no other
Your Name let the nations sing it louder
'Cause nothing has the power to save
But Your Name

Good, Good Father

Verse 1

I've heard a thousand stories
Of what they think You're like
But I've heard the tender whisper
Of love in the dead of night
You tell me that You're pleased
And that I'm never alone

Chorus

You're a Good Good Father
It's who You are
It's who You are
It's who You are
And I'm loved by You
It's who I am
It's who I am
It's who I am

Verse 2

I've seen many searching for answers
Far and wide
But I know we're all searching for answers
Only You provide
Because You know just what we need
Before we say a word

Verse 2

Jesus in Your Name we pray
Come and fill our hearts today
Lord give us strength to live for You
And glorify Your Name

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Bridge

You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us *Repeat*

Verse 3

Love so undeniable I, I can hardly speak
Peace so unexplainable I, I can hardly think
As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still
Into love love love love

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INVOCATION

Leader In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People Amen.

Leader Simon Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?"

People Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times." *Matthew 18:21-22*

CONFESSION

Leader Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God.

People And whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

Leader Anyone who does not love does not know God,

People Because God is love.

Leader In our sin, we do not love others, and we do not love God.

People In His love, Jesus died and rose and forgives our sins.

(Congregation turns to face one another)

Left I have sinned against God, and I have sinned against you, my neighbor.

Right In Jesus, you are forgiven.

Right I have sinned against God, and I have sinned against you, my neighbor.

Left In Jesus, you are forgiven.

ABSOLUTION

Leader God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners,

People Christ died for us.

Leader We Love

People Because He first loved us.

Leader God, in His mercy, forgives us our sins for Jesus' sake.

People Amen.

(Sit)

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD

Reader God speaks to us through the Old Testament: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

"The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' And the Lord said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.'"

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Reader God speaks to us through the New Testament: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up. If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one." For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Leader God speaks to us from the Gospel of Mark, the first chapter as Jesus heals the man with an unclean spirit.

Leader They went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath [Jesus] entered the synagogue and was teaching.

People And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.

Leader And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out,

People "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God."

Leader But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying,

People "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."

Leader And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

Leader This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *Sue Steege, Director of Transformation Ministry*

MESSAGE *Puff Up or Build Up? Rev. Jason Christ, Associate Pastor*

(Stand)

APOSTLES' CREED

People I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Sit)

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O Come to the Altar

Verse 1

Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling

Chorus

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Verse 2

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling

Bridge

Oh what a Savior
Isn't He wonderful
Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Bow down before Him
For He is Lord of all
Sing alleluia Christ is risen

Verse 3

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

People Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on Earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen.

(Stand)

CLOSING SONG *My Jesus*

Verse 1

Are you past the point of weary
Is your burden weighing heavy
Is it all too much to carry
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus
Do you feel that empty feeling
'Cause shame's done all its stealing
And you're desperate for some healing
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus

Chorus

He makes a way where there ain't no way
Rises up from an empty grave
Ain't no sinner that He can't save
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus
His love is strong and His grace is free
And the good news is I know that He
Can do for you what He's done for me
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus
And let my Jesus change your life

Interlude

Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah
Amen amen (amen)

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BLESSING

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Altar Flowers presented to the Glory of God in loving memory of Shirley Edinger by Kim Kwietniewski.

Verse 2

Who can wipe away the tears
From broken dreams and wasted years
And tell the past to disappear
Oh and let me tell you 'bout my Jesus
And all the wrong turns that you would
Go and undo if you could
Who can work it all for your good
Let me tell you about my Jesus

Verse 3

Who would take my cross to Calvary
Pay the price for all my guilty
Who would care that much about me
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus oh

Interlude

Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah
Amen amen
Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah
Let my Jesus change your life