

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Epiphany 31 January 2021

Without the Spirit of God, we can do nothing. We are as ships without wind. We are useless. —C.H. Spurgeon

That it is the work of the Holy Spirit to enable us to believe the Scripture to be the Word of God, or the supernatural, immediate revelation of His mind unto us, and infallibly to evidence it unto our minds, so as that we may spiritually and savingly acquiesce therein. —John Owen

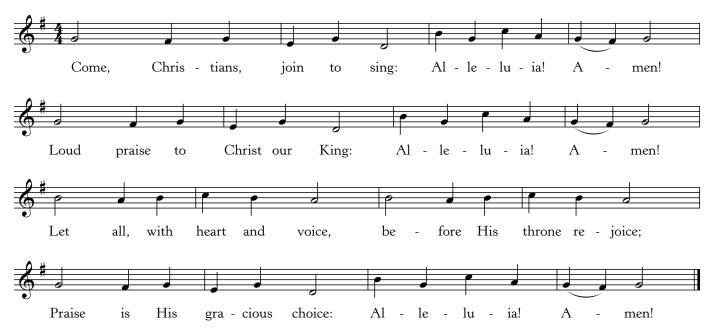
GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

It is God Himself who calls His people to worship. We do not call ourselves, but it is the King who opens His gates and beckons us into His courts.

Gospel Invitation—Titus 3:4-5

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.

Introit—Come, Christians, Join To Sing, Vs. 1



Text: Christian H. Bateman, 1843; Music: MADRID, Traditional Spanish melody, Arr. David Evans, 1927.

Call to Worship—based on Psalm 25:4-5, 8-10

Pastor: Good and upright is the Lord.

All: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness.

Reader 1: He instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right. And He teaches the

humble His way.

Reader 2: Make us to know Your ways, O Lord. Teach us Your paths.

All: Lead us in Your truth and teach us.

Pastor: For You are the God of our salvation.

Hymn of Praise—Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing



Text: Robert Robinson, 1758; Music: NETTLETON, Asahel Nettleton, 1825.

GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

The Bible is the means by which God graciously reveals Himself to His people—so we listen, read, and study with expectant hearts. God particularly entreats us in His Word to sing psalms. And while all Scripture is appropriate for hymns and spiritual songs, there is a specific exhortation for us to make use of the Psalter as the church's songbook.

Psalm of Praise—Blest Be The Lord, My Rock, My Might (Psalm 144)



Text: The Psalter, 1912, Alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2016; Music: POLK COUNTY, Henry C. Haffner, 2016.

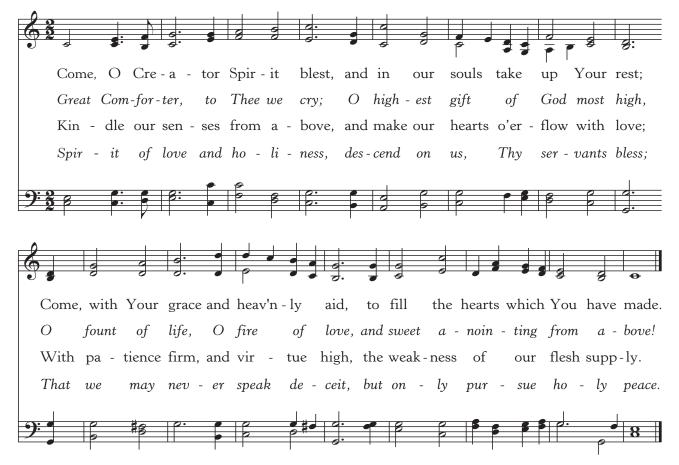
Scripture Reading—Romans 8:14-17

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Hymn of Praise—Come, O Creator Spirit Blest



Text: Rhabanus Maurus, c. 800, Tr. Edward Caswall, 1849; Music: TRURO, *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789.

Reading of the Word—1 Corinthians 2:1-16

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

⁶ Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him"— ¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴ The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶ "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—Teach Me O Lord, Thy Holy Way, Vs. 1



Text: William T. Matson, 1862; Music: TALLIS' CANON, Thomas Tallis, 1560.

Sermon—The Work of the Spirit

-Pastor, George Grant

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, AND RECONCILIATION

The People of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

Confession of Sin—based on Ephesians 2:1-5

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. We come confessing because we are sinners, every one of us, without exception.

All: We all were dead in the trespasses and sins in which we once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air.

Pastor: The spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience was once at work among us.

All: We all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Pastor: But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.

All: In Him we have forgiveness. By grace we have been saved.

Assurance of Pardon—Titus 2:11-14; Galatians 5:25; Matthew 11:28

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for us all, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

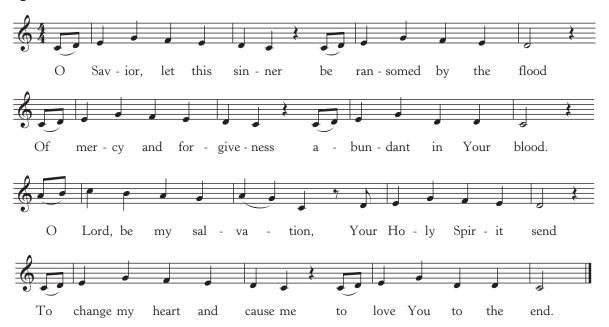
All: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pastor: He says to us, "Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

All: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: Amen.

Sung Response—There Is No Greater Portrait, Vs. 4



HEAVENLY GIFT—EUCHARISTO

As God beckons His people to the bounty of His table, they make joyous profession of their fealty to Him.

Profession of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and Earth,

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,

Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell.

On the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

From whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit; the one holy church—both visible and invisible;

The communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;

The resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

Sursum Corda

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty,

Creator of Heaven and Earth. Therefore, we praise You, Triune God, and we join our voices with the

angels, the archangels, and the whole company of Heaven in this hymn of eternal praise:



Text: Is 6:3, Rev 4:8, Mt 21:9; Music: FRANKLIN SANCTUS, Gregory Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S TABLE

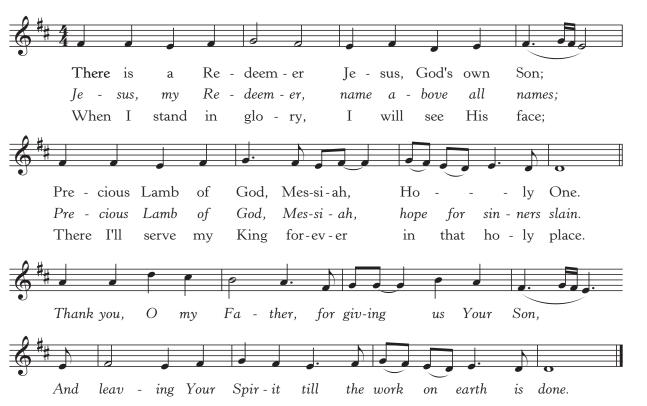
This table is open to all baptized Christians who have made a profession of faith. You may come forward to receive the bread and wine or grape juice.

Hymn of Praise—Breathe On Me, Breath Of God



Text: Edwin Hatch, 1878, Music: TRENTHAM, Robert Jackson, 1888.

Hymn of Praise—There Is A Redeemer



GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE, PETITIONS, TITHES & OFFERINGS

Our praying, serving, and giving are essential aspects of worship. It is here that our faith moves from our heads and hearts into our lives and callings.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession—The Lord's Prayer

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

Hymn of Praise—May The Mind Of Christ, My Savior



Text: Kate B. Wilkinson, 1925; Music: ST. LEONARDS, A. Cyril Barham-Gould, 1925.

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

Benediction—based on Romans 15:13

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen*.

Sung Response—Gloria Patri



Text: Lesser Doxology, 2nd century; Music: Nathan George, 2015, Harm. Henry C. Haffner, 2015.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth ..."
—John 14:16-17

This morning's service will place particular emphasis on the work of the Holy Spirit as our helper and teacher. Take a look through the bulletin, and notice how many times in our hymns we ask for help. We'll ask for help to sing ("tune my heart to sing Thy grace"—Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing). We will ask the Lord to defend us from our enemies (Blest Be The Lord, My Rock, My Might—Psalm 144). We ask for patience and virtue, that we might "only pursue holy peace" in the body (Come, O Creator Spirit Blest), and an "obedient mind" (Teach Me, O Lord, Thy Holy Way), recalling the Spirit's role in guiding our understanding. We ask God to send the Spirit to "change our hearts" (There Is No Greater Portrait) and to help us endure (Breathe On Me Breath Of God). We ask these things, and the Lord is faithful to answer. Since the Scriptures promise that Christians will be "led by the Spirit of God" (Romans 8:14) and "taught by the Spirit" (1 Corinthians 2:13), how else can we respond but with gratitude? "Thank You, O my Father for giving us Your Son, and leaving Your Spirit till the work on earth is done." —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Keystone Verse: Spirit, Power, Depths, Comprehends, Understand, Impart, Natural, Spiritual Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. (1 Corinthians 2:12)



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