



January 29, 2023
4th Sunday after Epiphany

Leading Worship Today:

Pastor: Brian Entz
Lay Leader: Larry Janski
Accompanist: Ralph Johansen

*Please read along with all **Bold** text
All are invited to stand when there is an **

Larger Print Hymns: Please see an usher if you would like a copy of larger print hymns.

Children's Bulletins: Please see an usher if you are interested in a children's bulletin.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

People have an idea that the preacher is an actor on a stage and they are critics, blaming or praising him. What they don't know is that they are the actors on the stage; he [the preacher] is merely the prompter standing in the wings, reminding them of their lost lines. -Soren Kierkegaard

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came near him. Then he began to preach to them, saying... -Matthew 5:1-2 paraphrase

GATHERING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

I rejoiced with those who said to me,
“Let’s go to the Lord’s house!”

Now our feet are standing

in your gates, Jerusalem!

The people who trust in the Lord
are like Mount Zion:

never shaken, lasting forever.

Mountains surround Jerusalem.

**That’s how the Lord surrounds his people
from now until forever from now!**

*OPENING SONGS

Chorus

Come now is the time to worship

Come now is the time to give your heart

Come just as you are to worship

Come just as you are before your God

Come

Verse 1

One day every tongue

Will confess You are God

One day every knee will bow

Come, Now is the Time to Worship

Still the greatest treasure remains

For those who gladly choose You now

Verse 2

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives

Willingly our knees will bow

With all our heart soul mind and strength

We gladly choose You now

Ending

Come come just as you are come com

Chorus

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul

Worship His holy name

Sing like never before O my soul

I'll worship Your holy name

Verse 1

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning

It's time to sing Your song again

Whatever may pass and whatever lies before
me

Let me be singing when the evening comes

Verse 2

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger

Your name is great and Your heart is kind

For all Your goodness I will keep on singing

10,000 Reasons

Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Verse 3

And on that day when my strength is failing

The end draws near and my time has come

Still my soul will sing Your praise unending

Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Tag

Worship Your holy name

Lord I'll worship Your holy name

Ending

Sing like never before O my soul

I'll worship Your holy name

Worship Your holy name

Worship Your holy name

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We come before God recognizing our faults and trusting in God's loving mercy. Together let us lean on the grace of God and confess our sins.

Holy and gracious God you created us in your glorious image and likeness, but we do not live as divine image bearers. Forgive us, O God, for the times when we do not live as if you are with us, for the times when we do not recognize your blessings in our lives, and for the times when we do not bless others as you have blessed us. Forgive us for the things we have done and the things we have left undone that have broken relationships, harmed others, and driven people from you.

Restore us, we pray, through Jesus, your Son, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

As water is poured into the font remember your baptism and that in these waters you are named as one of God's beloved and joined to Christ forever.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Receive the good news! Hope does not disappoint us, for God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Trust the good news and give thanks, for in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and reconciled to God.

Alleluia, Amen!

*RESPONSE

#447 We Are Forgiven

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of grace, as we read and hear the scriptures we ask that you refresh in us those words so familiar, open us to those words that are new, and in all things deepen our understanding of you and your Kingdom. In Jesus name, Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 6:1-8 (NRSV)

¹ Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³ "O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,

Aaron, and Miriam.

- ⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
 what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
 and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
 that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”
- ⁶ “With what shall I come before the LORD,
 and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
 with calves a year old?
- ⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
 with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
 the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
- ⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
 and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
 and to walk humbly with your God?

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (NRSV)

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
 and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for

us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,³¹in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SONG OF PRAISE

#172 *Blest Are They*

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:1-12 (NRSV)

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Rev. Brian Entz

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

Blessed Are You

Courtney

*“Let us present ourselves to God as those
who have been delivered from death to life”.
To give online, please scan the QR code.*



*DOXOLOGY

#710 *We Lift Our Voices*

We lift our voices, we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering.
All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices; we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering; we are an offering.

*OFFERING PRAYER

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from The Confession of Belhar

The unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways;

- * in that we love one another;**
- * that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another;**
- * that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another;**
- * that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind;**
- * have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause, and share one hope;**
- * together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ;**
- * together are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity;**
- * together know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ;**
- * that we need one another and buildup one another, admonishing and comforting one another;**
- * that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity;**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We praise you O God for your grace poured out upon us by your Holy Spirit, for your everlasting love, and your steadfast presence. **We praise you O God.**

We praise you O God for the beauty of your creation, from the smallest of insects to the tallest of mountains. **We praise you O God.** We thank you for the ways your creation provides for our needs and pray we might be good stewards of all you have made.

We praise you O God for the communities you have made for our home and for the nation we live in. **We praise you O God.** We pray for those in positions of leadership, that they may be wise, humble, and just in all they do. Empower us to live in love towards our neighbors and to serve them in the way of Jesus.

We praise you O God for your compassion for those in need and your solidarity with those who suffer. **We praise you O God.** Bless all who are oppressed, hurting, and made to feel less than your beloved children. Bring to them whatever relief, comfort, and justice they need and use us wherever possible to be the means of your compassion.

We praise you O God for healing mercies and tender presence. **We praise you O God.** Be with all who are sick, injured, or in recovery and bring healing and comfort to them and their loved ones. Especially we pray for...

We praise you O God for your comfort in grief and the promise that death does not have the final word. **We praise you O God.** Bring comfort and peace to all who grieve and renew our hope in your promise of resurrection life. Especially we pray for...

We praise you O God for the gift of your Church. **We praise you O God.** We give you thanks that you have called each of us to be a part of this family, your body, here and in eternity. Help us, by your grace, to be faithful disciples of Jesus; living in love, extending the mercy we have been given, and glorifying you in all we do.

We praise you O God for Jesus Christ, your incarnate Word, our source and salvation who taught us to pray saying...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

SENDING

*CLOSING SONG

#175 *Seek Ye First*

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES

The Call to Worship comes from Psalm 122 and Psalm 125.

All other liturgy comes/is adapted from the Book of Common Worship (2018) or is written in house.

MUSIC LICENSES

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Blessed Are You Craig Courtney Copyright 1998 Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

We Lift Our Voices Text and Music: Dwight Liles, 1984 Text and Music Copyright 1984 Word Music, LLC

Seek Ye First Text: Stanza 1, Karen Lafferty, 1971, alt. stanzas 2-3, anon, Spanish trans, anon; Korean trans, The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee Music: Karen Lafferty, 1971 Text and Music Copyright 1972 Universal Music-Brentwood Publishing/CAlvary Chapel Costa Mesa dba CCCM Music (admin. Universal Music-Brentwood Benson Publishing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Classes, Coffee, and Conversations: Today we will be meeting after the worship service for the **Annual Meeting and Potluck!** Next week, join us for **TGIF** during CCC.

Lent Soup Suppers are around the corner: The Faith Formation Committee is looking for some volunteers to help lead the intergenerational program during our Lenten Soup Suppers. We have a base curriculum ready for each week that we will provide, along with any supplies needed. No volunteer would be leading by themselves. The Soup Suppers will be Wednesday evenings in March from 6-7:30pm. Please let Pastor Brian, Cindy Doth, or Liz Klaassen know if you would like to volunteer or if you have more questions.

Mystery Dinner: Come join us on Saturday, February 11th at 6:00pm for a Mystery Dinner! A suggested donation of \$10.00 is asked to cover food costs. Please sign up for this event in the narthex.

Men's Retreat: First Presbyterian Church of Maple Plain has invited us to join them for a Men's Retreat. This will be located at Clearwater Forest from February 17 through 19. The cost is \$170. If you have any questions and to sign up please contact Dave Tillman 952-215-6657, tillmand6010@gmail.com

SPOT: Spiritual Practices of Today: Lent is the time before Easter when the faithful will fast in remembrance of the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made. As we consider our own personal preparation for Lent, join us for our February SPOT event to learn about fasting. Mary will lead us on February 23, at 7 pm in a discussion about how to do this and what we can learn about our faith. Please join by Zoom or call in if needed.

Red Cross Blood Drive: We will be hosting the next Red Cross Blood Drive on March 6th from Noon to 6pm. We are looking for volunteers to help with this. A sign up sheet is in the narthex. Please sign up if you are able to help.

12th Annual Mason's Food Shelf Matching Fund Drive: Once again, the Nelson Masonic Lodge #135 will be matching all monetary donations made to the Buffalo Food Shelf through the end of February, up to \$10,000. Donations can be dropped off at the Old National Bank or mailed to *Old National Bank, Attn: Masons Food Shelf Drive, 910 Commercial Drive, Buffalo, MN 55313*. Make your check payable to **Masonic Lodge 135** and write "Buffalo Food Shelf" in the memo line to ensure it is deposited to the correct account. Food insecurity remains high in our area and this is a marvelous way to make our giving stretch and ensure continued assistance to those in need. No donation is too small. Every dollar counts! Any questions please contact Joan Lowe, joanhlowe@msn.com.

Support Buffalo High School Drumline: The Buffalo High School Drumline is collecting new and gently used adult and children's shoes to help raise funds to offset costs for their upcoming 2023 season. The drumline is open to children in grades 8-12 and last year the team took 1st place at all of their competitions. They hope to make this year's performance even better and thank you in advance for your support.

How can we pray for you? Along with the blue prayer request cards found in the pews you can also submit prayer requests on the BPC website. Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to be taken directly to the prayer request form. All prayer requests go directly to Pastor Brian.



BPC Prayer List:

The Family of Sharon Bishop

Brittany Daniels

Arv and Pam Klemz

Janell and Phil Riley

Nathaniel Synstelien

Ellen Sibert, Lanny & Shirley Taylor's nephew's wife

John and Charlotte Collins

Janice Sorby

Sharon, Lavina & Larry Pattee's daughter

Mark Lawlor

Julie Bernard, Charlie Wilken's daughter

Tyler, a friend of Mandy's dealing with post surgery complications

Judy McKee (Lavina's sister-in-law) and family following the death of Bernie (Lavina's brother)

For peace in Ukraine and around the world.

For those with dementia or alzheimers and their caregivers.

For those with COVID 19 and their caregivers.

For all nurses, doctors, and healthcare professionals.

For neighboring congregations in the midst of transition.

For the people and communities in California, eastern Kentucky, Virginia, and Pakistan following severe flooding.

For the people of Puerto Rico following flooding, power outages, and other hurricane damage.

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Blest Are They

172

Gsus
Leader or All

1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the
 2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; they shall in -
 3 Blest are they who show mer - cy; mer - cy
 4 Blest are they who seek peace; they are the
 5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, all be -

Dsus D7 Gsus G Gsus G

king - dom of God. Blest are they,
 her - it the earth. Blest are they who
 shall be theirs. Blest are they, the
 chil - dren of God. Blest are they who
 cause of me. Re - joice, be glad;

D C Dsus D Gsus G

full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled.
 hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill.
 pure of heart; they shall see God.
 suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs.
 yours is the king-dom; shine for all to see.

Refrain

All C D7 G D Em G C G

Re - joice and be glad! Bless-ed are you;

Am A D C D7 Em E7

ho - ly are you! Re - joice and be glad!

C Dsus D C G

Yours is the king-dom of God!

This hymn paraphrases the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1–12), the opening portion of Christ's Sermon on the Mount. Similar words of blessing also occur in the Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:20–23). Both sets of sayings reverse worldly values and offer a new understanding of God's ways.

175

Seek Ye First

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia,

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God
 2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you;
 3 You shall not live by bread a - lone,

al - le - lu - ia,

and its righ - teous - ness,
 seek, and you shall find;
 but by ev - ery word

The author and composer wrote the first stanza and folk-style tune after attending a Bible study on Matthew 6:33. The later stanzas, based respectively on Matthew 7:7 and Matthew 4:4 emerged anonymously. Such meditative singing of scripture is an important form of sung prayer.

TEXT: Stanza 1, Karen Lafferty, 1971, alt.; stanzas 2-3, anon.; Spanish trans. anon.;
 Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee

MUSIC: Karen Lafferty, 1971

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LAFFERTY
 Irregular

JESUS CHRIST: LIFE

The musical score consists of three staves of music in G major (two treble clef staves and one bass clef staff) with a key signature of two sharps. The lyrics are as follows:

English:

al - le lu - ia,
and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you.
knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you.
that pro - ceeds from the mouth of God.

Spanish:

al - le lu - ia!
Al - le lu, al - le lu - ia!

Korean:

너희는 먼저- 주의 나라와
그의를 구하-면
이모든것 네게 더하시리라
알렐-루 알렐루야

SPANISH

1 *Busca primero el reino de Dios
y su perfecta justicia,
que lo demás lo añadirá el Señor.
Alelu, aleluya.*

KOREAN

1 너희는 먼저- 주의 나라와
그의를 구하-면
이모든것 네게 더하시리라
알렐-루 알렐루야