

Order of Worship for February 20, 2022
7th Day after Epiphany

Gathering Music

Steven Johnson

This is the Day

One: This is the day,

(All): This is the day

One: that the Lord has made,

(All): that the Lord has made.

One: We will rejoice,

(All): We will rejoice

One: and be glad in it,

(All): and be glad in it.

All: This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day, this is the day, that the Lord has made.

One: You are our God,

(All): You are our God;

One: we will praise your name,

(All): we will praise your name;

One: we will give thanks,

(All): we will give thanks

One: for your faithfulness,

(All): for your faithfulness.

All: You are our God; we will praise your name; we will give thanks for your faithfulness.

You are our God, you are our God; we will praise your name.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Call to Worship

Liturgist

This is the day that you have made, O God!

This is the day you have called Holy:

Sabbath day, a rest day, a time-out,

out of the world and into the presence of God: a day for rejoicing.

We are glad, yes, we are glad indeed,

to be together in the House of the Lord!

Make us glad this morning in the House of the Lord.
Remove from us our distractions, our heart-worries,
our to-dos and should-haves and all the constant stress & strain.
And in its place, O God, give us more of You.
Here in your House, our hearts are filled with peace
our mouths with laughter, our tongues with shouts of joy.

**We are glad, yes, we are glad indeed,
to be together in the House of the Lord!**

Fill us to brimming and overflowing with the joy of the Lord:
A good measure of God, pressed down,
shaken together and running over.

**We are glad, yes, we are glad indeed,
to be together in the House of the Lord!**

Let us sing glad praises to our God!

Hymn of Praise:

GTG #611

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

PREPARING FOR THE WORD

Call to confession

Liturgist

Together we sing joyous hymns of praise to our God.
In so doing, we recognize who God truly is.
Together we are called to confess our true selves to God,
So that God can transform us in who God desires us to be.
Let us pray together this prayer of confession:

Prayer of confession

O Lord we seek your mercy...
yet we ourselves look for payback when we are wronged.
We think it "only fair" and "what is right" when we retaliate
and use harsh words
and withdraw from relationship.
The forgiveness you offer on our account
is larger than we can comprehend,
still we withhold forgiveness
and carry the grudge over petty items.
We are eager to do your judging.
And the worst: we conspire our inner thoughts
to secure your forgiveness
while avoiding honest repentance.
Forgive us Lord for the sins we know in our hearts.
Save us Lord from the sins we hide.

(Brief silence for personal, private confession)

Words of forgiveness

Liturgist

Family of God,
lift up your spirits with thanksgiving to God
whose nature is always to have mercy.
All who have come clean and sought forgiveness
shall never need to revisit old shame again.
The untarnished future is God's
and it is now offered to you with open hands.
All things have become new!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

HEARING THE WORD

Message for all God's Children:

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Prayer for Illumination:

Liturgist

Speak to us, Lord.
Speak to us in the waiting, the watching,
the hoping, the longing,
the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing.
Speak to us by your Word
and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson:

Liturgist

Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42

Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.
Put your trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and feed on its riches.
Take delight in the LORD, and he shall give you your heart's desire.
Commit your way to the LORD and put your trust in him, and he will bring it to
pass.
He will make your righteousness as clear as the light and your just dealing as the
noonday.
Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him.
Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil
schemes.
Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.
For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait upon the LORD shall possess the
land.
In a little while the wicked shall be no more;
you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.
But the lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.
But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the LORD;
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.
The LORD will help them and rescue them;
he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because they seek refuge in
him.

Anthem:

On Eagle's Wings

New Testament Lesson:

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Luke 6:27-38

Jesus said, "I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if

anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

Sermon: *Acting Like God's Kingdom Has Already Come* *Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl*

Hymn:

GTG #379

We Shall Overcome

1 We shall overcome; we shall overcome; we shall overcome someday.

Refrain:

O, deep in my heart I do believe we shall overcome someday!

2 We'll walk hand in hand; we'll walk hand in hand; we'll walk hand in hand someday.
[Refrain]

3 We shall live in peace; we shall live in peace; we shall live in peace someday. [Refrain]

4 We are not afraid; we are not afraid; we are not afraid today. [Refrain]

5 God will see us through; God will see us through; God will see us through today.
[Refrain]

Choir: **O, God, in my heart I give You thanks!! We have overcome today!**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Liturgist

Consider the words from Luke's gospel: give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back. Lord, accept the offerings we give this day.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayers of the people

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Heavenly Father, when we feel that we have lost direction as a people, or even as a person, help us remember your presence in our wilderness journeys.
Great Deliverer, your steadfast love and wonderful works have spared us of troubles known and unknown, for you are in love with us.
Holy Spirit, help us remember the great work that Christ accomplished for us, which no other person could perform. Help us confess with gladness, "by grace we have been saved."
Lord Jesus Christ, gift of mercy from God the Father, you love us even when we are most unlovable, lost, and afraid. Thank you for your grace.
Lord Jesus Christ, lifted up on the cross like the serpent in the wilderness, lift up our eyes to see you as the Lord and Savior, loving God's whole world.
We bring before you those who suffer, those who lose hope, those who yearn to feel your love.
We bring before you the conflicts: local and global that need your peace that passes understanding.
We bring before you those whom you love with special needs, known to us as family and friends.
The day of the Lord is coming: He abounds in steadfast love.
We remember we are dust and to dust we shall return, but we are your precious dust.
So we dare to pray and Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

Affirmation of Faith

Liturgist

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Going forth in Joy!

Closing Hymn

GTG #80

You Shall Go Out with Joy

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
The mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
There'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field
Will clap, will clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands
The trees of the field will clap their hands
The trees of the field will clap their hands
While you go out with joy.

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

May God, who has begun a good work within you,
continue that work until the day when Christ Jesus returns.
May your love overflow more and more;
may you continue to grow in knowledge and understanding,
so that you can clearly discern what really matters,
and so that you may stand pure and blameless before God
on the day of Christ's return.

The God who calls you is faithful, and God will do it.

Go in peace. Amen!

Postlude

Steven Johnson