

Date: January 21, 2024

Season of Epiphany

Prayer of Preparation

Season of the Spirit

God of mercy, in each second of time you are with us: you call us to discipleship, you invite us into relationship, you invite us into relationship one with another and with you, our Creator. In the moments of this worship may we experience your call, your community, your grace – and be led to respond. Amen.

Gathering in the Presence of God

**Please stand as able, in body or in spirit*

Gathering Music

T.G.G.T., Sacred Concert

Duke Ellington

Welcome

***Call to Worship** (responsively)

Liturgist

Christ is calling you as disciples

Lord Jesus, let us follow you faithfully.

You will be led into fields of mission and service.

Lord Jesus, where you lead us, we will go.

Listen for Christ's call to you.

We are ready to serve the Lord. AMEN.

***Hymn**

God Is Calling through the Whisper

GTG 410

Confessing Our Separation from God

We listen to the stories of the call of the disciples and find them interesting but unrealistic. We believe that we should not leave everything to follow someone we didn't know; we have too many responsibilities and ties which keep us from following. But God is persistent and understands our confusion and doubts and continues to call us to be in ministry and mission

in this world, but we keep placing conditions on service, and usually those conditions are "if we have time," "if we have energy," "if we can just try serving God for a little while to see how it all works out". Still God calls to each of us. Discipleship is difficult. Forgive us, patient and persistent Lord, for the many times we turn our backs on serving you and focus on our own comforts; when we look the other way when people are in need. Forgive us for our angry attitudes and actions which hurt rather than heal. Wrap your arms around us, heal our wounds and bind us to You as You gently move us into service in your name. AMEN.

***Assurance of Forgiveness** *Jesus, Draw Me Close* Rick Founds
Jesus, draw me close; Closer, Lord, to You.
Let the world around me fade away.
Jesus, draw me close;
Closer, Lord, to You.
For I desire to worship and obey.

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

We Hear God's Word

Prayer of Illumination Liturgist

Gospel Lesson Mark 1:14-20 Liturgist
Source: The Message

Anthem *O Bless the Lord, My Soul* Stephen Schwartz
Solo: Tina Marie Casamento

Reflection You Are On! Pastor

We Respond to God's Word

***Affirmation of Faith** *I Believe in Jesus* Marc Nelson

Prayers of the People of God: Joys and Hopes & The Lord's Prayer

The Act of Gratitude

Offertory *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore* GTG 721

***Doxology: An Expression of Faith to God** GTG 606

Tune: Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

***Prayer of Thanksgiving** (unison) Liturgist

Generous God, we ask you to bless the gifts we give this morning. We ask that you help grow the trust in us so that we might follow without looking back and we might leave behind more of our old lives to experience more deeply new life in you. Help us to leave our nets on the shore and leave those things that seemed essential before we heard the call, so that we might travel the road you have put before us. In the name of Christ who goes before us and beside us, we pray. Amen.

We Follow God's Word into the World

***Hymn** *Will You Come and Follow Me* GTG 726

*Benediction

Postlude *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* Traditional

Next Week's Liturgist: Lois Gillespie

WORSHIP TEAM

Rev. Eddie Jusino

Liturgist: Silvia Ritchie

Ushers: Diana Green and Nancy Tompkins

Music: David Libby

Soloist: Tina Marie Casamento

The Westminster Choir

A/V Tech: Melissa Schrock and Blue Jade

Attention Elders and Deacons:

Since we have just installed new officers, and many of us are new members and/or have not served as elders or deacons lately, the Worship Committee has scheduled a short refresher on procedures for acting as ushers and for serving communion on Thursday, February 1 at 1:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Elders and deacons who are not currently serving are welcome to participate. We need you all! There will be more information to follow, both in the Back of the Bulletin and in the Sunday printed bulletin.

We hope you will be able to attend this short but important instructional meeting.

Lois Gillespie, Worship Committee

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 @10am – Sunday Service with Fellowship Hour.

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service for light refreshments. Copies of the **2023 ANNUAL REPORT** will be available in the narthex.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1 AT 1:30 pm -USHER AND COMMUNION TRAINING. Anyone who is interested in being an Usher or who is an officer of the church who would like to learn how to serve communion,

please come! It will be facilitated by Silvia Ritchie, Pam Jusino and Pastor Eddie. Contact Pam Jusino with any questions.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6 and WEDNESDAYS, FEB. 14 AND 21;
MARCH 6, 13 AND 20 @10-11:15am - Lenten Book Study – Final Words from the Cross .** "Final Words - From the Cross", is a book-based study that explores the six statements that Jesus spoke from the cross and the meaning of Jesus' dying words for our lives today. This study is designed to walk us through the six weeks of Lent. Join Pastor Eddie for this seven-week class and experience the final words from the cross.

CLASS SCHEDULE

1. Feb., Tuesday 6 : Father Forgive Them... pp.13-33
2. Feb. Wednesday 14 - NO CLASS - Ash Wednesday service at 4:30 p.m.
3. Feb. Wednesday 21 - Today, You Will Be With Me in Paradise pp.34-50
4. Feb. Wednesday 28 - Behold Your Son...Behold Your Mother pp.51-63
5. March, Wednesday 6 - My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me pp.64-82
6. March, Wednesday 13 - I Thirst and It is Finished pp.83-116
7. March, Wednesday 20 -Postscript: The Words After That pp.117-128

Final Class - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7 @ 10am Adult Ed Bible Study - "Picturing Scripture" with Alan Keohane – is an engaging online Bible Check the WPC website or Back of the Bulletin for the Zoom link.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18 @ 6pm – Expressions of Joy Harp Ensemble
Join us for this annual special concert featuring five harpists.. Free will offering

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

The Faith Formation/ Christian Ed Ministry has been working very hard to create a survey/instrument soon to be distributed to the congregation. The intent is to capture people's interest in learning about their faith and in becoming active volunteers throughout the many avenues of ministry offered at WPC. Therefore, the members of the Faith Formation Ministry and Pastor would like to ask the congregation to make time to pray for the fruition for a successful process and full participation.

Surgery and Post-Surgery:

Bev (friend of Sherry Schnepfe)

Nancy Rosenthal (friend of Wendy Walker)

Ailment

Charlotte and Riley (daughter and great-niece of Pastor Eddie and Pam)

Faith Duncan

Marion (friend of Esther L., Sarah O; Nancy O., and Diana G.)

Adele Trout

Mourning/Grief

Hal Casey (Mable Granke's son-in-law)