

Order of Worship January 22, 2023  
Third Sunday after Epiphany

*Gathering Music.*      **Lord, I Lift Your Name on High**

Lord, I lift your name on high. Lord, I love to sing your praises.  
I'm so glad you're in my life. I'm so glad you came to save us.  
You came from heaven to earth to show the way  
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.  
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky  
Lord I lift Your name on high. (repeat)

You came from heaven to earth to show the way  
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.  
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky  
Lord I lift Your name on high. Lord, I lift Your name on high,  
Lord, I lift Your name on high.

**Welcome**

*David Norton, CRE*

**Call To Worship**

*Liturgist*

*L:* We come together to celebrate the joy-filled blessedness of living within God's rule. We come, blessed by the fruits of God's Spirit that as we worship brings joy and peace.

***C:* We come together to delight in the rule and laws of God as they influence our living. We come, blessed by the fruits of God's Spirit that gives us patience and self-control.**

*L:* We come together to worship and praise the God who blesses, renews, and refreshes us so that we are like fruit-bearing trees that are watered by God's gracious guidance.

***C:* We come, blessed by the fruits of God's Spirit that enables us to worship God faithfully; and to accept others in loving gentleness and kindly goodness - to God's greater glory. Amen.**

## Hymn

### *God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian*

God the Spirit, guide and guardian, wind-spiced flame and hovering dove, breath of life and voice of prophets, sign of blessing, power of love: give to those who lead your people fresh anointing of your grace; send them forth as bold apostles to your church in every place.

Christ our Savior, sovereign, shepherd, Word made flesh, Love crucified, teacher, healer, suffering servant, friend of sinners, foe of pride: in your tending may we all learn and live a shepherd's care; grant us courage and compassion shown through word and deed and prayer.

Great Creator, life-bestower, truth beyond all thought's recall, fount of wisdom, womb of mercy, giving and forgiving all: as you know our strength and weakness, so may those the church exalts oversee its life steadfastly, yet not overlook its faults.

Triune God, mysterious being, undivided and diverse, deeper than our minds can fathom, greater than our creeds rehearse: help us in our varied callings your full image to proclaim, that our ministries uniting may give glory to your name.

## PREPARING FOR THE WORD

### Call to Confession

*Liturgist*

We come before God not as despised sinners, but as beloved children. With the confidence of children of God, let us humbly confess our sin.

### Prayer of Confession

*David Norton, CRE*

Loving God, all the fancy words in the world, expressed in eloquent prose, decorated with emotion, spoken with conviction, cannot compete with a heartfelt 'sorry' when all other words fail. There are times when we are all too aware of our limitations, conscious of sin, and the distance it creates between us. Sometimes 'sorry' is all the heart can bear to say aloud. It is only you who can read and understand the language of our hearts. Only you who can

translate our 'sorry' into the prayer we would have prayed if we had the words within us. Then you forgive, and having forgiven, surround us in an embrace of love, drawing us close to your heart as it was always meant to be. Thank you, Loving Father, that you listen to hearts as well as voices. Thank you. Amen.

### **Words of Forgiveness**

Merciful Lord, grant to us your pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ, Amen.

### *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**

*David Norton, CRE*

### **Prayer of Illumination**

*Liturgist*

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept you Word. Silence in us any voices but your own, so that we may hear your Word and also do it; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Old Testament Reading - Jeremiah 17:5-10**

*Liturgist*

Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

**New Testament Reading - Matthew 5:1-10**

*David Norton, CRE*

*The Beatitudes*

- 1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.
- 2 Then 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.”

***Anthem***

***Blest Are They***

**Sermon**

***“Ripening the Beatitudes”***

*David Norton, CRE*

**Hymn**

***O Blest Are They***

(Tune: Truro)

O blest are they who in their love compassion hold for those in need;  
For they shall find when faced by foes, the Lord is their defense indeed.  
When all the evils earth can dream are cast on me, my faith to break  
Their rage I temper through God’s grace and bear them boldly for God’s sake.

To me, O Lord, in mercy turn, your favor my most treasured prize;  
My mouth shall sing redemption's song and tears of love wash clean my eyes.

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**Prayers of the People and  
The Lord's Prayer**

*David Norton, CRE*

**Offertory**

*Liturgist*

*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!

**Offertory Prayer**

*Liturgist*

**God of heaven and earth, we are blessed for the many diverse ways we can worship you. We can worship you through singing spiritual songs and hymns together. We can worship you through our prayers and praise. We can worship you as we do the work of our hands with all our hearts, as unto you. We worship you when we are your hands and feet to others in need. And we worship you through our giving of our tithes and offerings, with gladness and adoration. Amen.**

**Hymn**

***Rejoice, the Lord Is King!***

**GTG #363**

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore.  
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!  
Our Savior, Jesus, reigns, the God of truth and love;  
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above.  
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;  
the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given.  
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come  
and gather all the saints to their eternal home.  
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!