

Order of Worship January 23, 2022
3rd Sunday After Epiphany

Gathering Music

Steve Johnson

Come! Live in the Light! We Are Called GTG #749

Come! live in the light!

Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!

We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God!

We are called to love tenderly.

We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart!

Show your mercy to all those in fear!

We are called to be hope for the hopeless,
so all hatred and blindness will be no more!

Sing! Sing a new song!

Sing of that great day when all will be one!

God will reign and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love!

Welcome

Rev. Barbara Macfie

Call To Worship (from Psalm 19)

Liturgist

L: *Come into this sacred space to worship God*

(All): whose teaching is perfect; whose directions are sure.

L: *Come into this holy place to worship God*

(All): whose standards are right; whose commandment is clear; whose judgements are true.

L: *Come with holy fear –to be given life, and made wise, to have your heart stirred and your eyes opened wide.
Come – let us worship God.*

**(All): Let the words of our mouths and the whispering of our hearts be according to your will,
O God. Amen.**

(written by Jeff Shrowder, and posted on The Billabong website.)

Hymn

GTG #267

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen!

Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;

praise is his gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!

Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!

He is our guide and friend; to us he'll condescend;
his love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again: Alleluia! Amen!

Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore,
singing forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!

PREPARING FOR THE WORD

Call to Confession

Liturgist

Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weakness, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Let us confess our sins against God and against our neighbor.

Prayer of Confession

Oh Lord, you call us to be your presence, your body in this world, but too often we get caught up in other thoughts, in other things. We don't hear you, we don't listen, and so lose sight of the ways you call us into relationships with one another; lose sight of the ways to care for, and to love one another.

Instead, we fracture into pieces and go our separate ways, forgetting we need each other to be whole. You have blessed us with your law and with Scripture to be our guide, but we ignore what we see as rules and restrictions.

Help us to open our eyes, and hear with the ears of our heart, the liberating spirit of the law that strengthens, revives, and enables us to be and do all you call us to be and do.

Gracious God, keep us working and praying for the day when your justice will roll down like waters, and your righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. ... And fill us with the peace that passes understanding,

the deep peace of Jesus Christ our Savior, in whose holy name we pray. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

The Spirit of God is with us. God has called us to bring good news to all. To care for the poor, the sick, the wounded; to include the marginalized, and others who are different than us, to respect and respond to all who are in need, anywhere and everywhere. God's joy is our strength. Through God we can do all things. God's Spirit surrounds us with grace, forgiveness and love. Alleluia and 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

Rev. Barbara Macfie

Prayer of Illumination

Liturgist

Almighty God, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes that we may see the wonders of your Word; and give us grace that we may clearly understand and freely choose the way of your wisdom; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: *Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-12*

Liturgist

All the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel. So, on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

8 They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear[a] and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read. Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." The Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve." Then

all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

New Testament Reading: Luke 4:14-21

Rev. Barbara Macfie

14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." [a] Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Hymn

GTG #688

*Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart
Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art,
and make me love thee as I ought to love.*

Sermon

Rev. Barbara Macfie

"Joyfully Listening to God's Voice"

Responding to the Word

Anthem: The Reconciliation Song

Offertory

Liturgist

Doxology

GTG #607

**Praise God, from whom all blessings;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. AMEN**

Offertory

Liturgist

Compassionate Lord, thank you for being our strength and our song. You fill our hearts with joy. May we give our offerings to you with gladness. Everything we have belongs to you, and we rejoice to give some of your abundant gifts back to you. Bless the tithes and offerings we give today. May the majesty of God be the light that guides us, the compassion of Jesus be the love that inspires us, and the presence of the Spirit be the power that empowers us. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Rev Barbara Macfie

Hymn

GTG #697

Take My Life

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

Benediction

Rev Barbara Macfi

Postlude