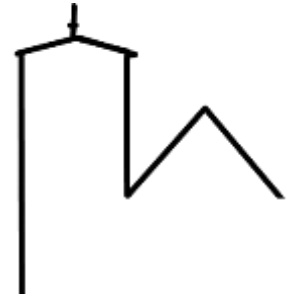


WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1420 West Moss Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61606



THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

31 January 2021

Ten O'clock

ALMIGHTY GOD, Light from Light, who commands the universe and all that is made, your Word is the power that makes whole what is broken, the force of good, and the food of peace. Teach us now as you taught in the synagogue. Heal us now so that in all that we say and do, the freedom we have in you may be for others, too; in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

GATHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

THE PREPARATION

Improvisation

David Hoffmann

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Clark-Jones

One: *By the calling of God's Holy Spirit, we gather in the name of the living Christ to worship God.*

All: **Surely, God is in this place and calls us to worship in spirit and in truth.**

One: *God's love is for you and for all people everywhere.*

All: **That we may share the love and life of God the Father, may we be renewed in the refreshing Holy Spirit in the presence of the living Christ.**

THE HYMN

Silence, Frenzied, Unclean Spirit

Geneva

1. "Silence! Frenzied, unclean spirit,"
cried God's healing, Holy One.
"Cease your ranting! Flesh can't bear it.
Flee as night before the sun."
At Christ's voice the demon trembled,
from its victim madly rushed,
while the crowd that was assembled
stood in wonder, stunned, and hushed.

2. Lord, the demons still are thriving
in the gray cells of the mind:
tyrant voices, shrill and driving,
twisted thoughts that grip and bind
doubts that stir the heart to panic,
fears distorting reason's sight,
guilt that makes our loving frantic,
Dreams that cloud the soul with fright.

3. Silence, Lord, the unclean spirit, in our mind and in our heart.
 Speak your word that when we hear it all our demons shall depart.
 Clear our thought and calm our feeling; still the fractured, warring soul.
 By the power of your healing make us faithful, true and whole.

Text: Thomas Troegger, 1984
 Music: George Henry Day, 1940

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*praying together*)

HOLY AND ALL-POWERFUL GOD, who commands all spirits, comforts those in distress, and casts out destructive forces, we confess that we are unable to do Your will. We protect what is familiar and reject what is unknown. We admire those with courage, but excuse ourselves when we falter from the truth. We forget that You are always with us, and that with You all things are possible. Forgive us, lead us, make us new. Remove our desire to heed false prophets, and show us Your way.

***TIME OF SILENCE AND PERSONAL CONFESSION**

***KYRIE**

Tom Clark-Jones



Lord have mer - cy up - on us. Christ have mer - cy up -
 on — us. Lord have mer - cy up - on us.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***GLORIA PATRI**

Tom Clark-Jones



Glo - ry be to the Fa - - ther,
 and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
 As it was in the be - gin - ning, is
 now, and ev - er shall be. world with - out
 end. A - men. A - - - - men.

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶ This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷ Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹ Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰ But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak – that prophet shall die."

*THE PSALTER

Psalm 111

Old Hundredth

1. Hallelujah! Among the just
My heart will give God thanks and praise;
His works are great, studied by all
Who take delight to know his ways.

2. His work is full of majesty,
Enduring splendor, righteousness;
Gracious is he, remember well
His works for they are marvelous.

3. To those who fear him, he gives food;
He shows the power of his hand
As, mindful of his covenant,
He gives to us the promised land.

4. Redemption and eternal law
He sent us; holy is his Name;
Wisdom begins with fear of God;
His praise endures, always the same.

from: *A New Metrical Psalter*, Christopher L. Webber

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EPISTLE: I Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ² Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³ but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴ Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵ Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth – as in fact there are many gods and many lords – ⁶ yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷ It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸ "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹ But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹ So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹² But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

OFFERING OF MUSIC

Improvisation

David Hoffmann

GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²² They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³ Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴ and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷ They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching – with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

SERMON

Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 380

O Christ, the Healer

Erhalt uns, Herr

1. O Christ, the healer, we have come
To pray for health, to plead for friends;
How can we fail to be restored,
When reached by love that never ends.

2. From every ailment flesh endures
Our bodies clamor to be freed;
Yet in our hearts we would confess
That wholeness is our deepest need.

3. How strong, O Lord, are our desires
How weak our knowledge of ourselves!
Release in us those healing truths
Unconscious pride resists or shelves.

4. In conflicts that destroy our health
We recognize the world's disease;
Our common life declares our ills;
Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?

5. Grant that we all, made one in faith,

**In Your community may find
The wholeness that, enriching us,
Shall reach the whole of humankind.**

**Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1969
Music: Klug's *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543
Harmonization: J.S. Bach, 1725**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*affirming together*)

rom *Philippians 2*

CHRIST JESUS, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death -- even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

THE GIFT OF MUSIC

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Andrew Carter

Dear Lord and Father of mankind, Forgive our foolish ways; Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives Thy service find, In deeper rev'rence, praise. In simple trust like theirs who heard
Beside the Syrian sea The gracious calling of the Lord, Let us, like them, without a word, Rise up
and follow Thee. O Sabbath rest by Galilee, O calm of hills above, Where Jesus knelt to share
with Thee The silence of eternity, Interpreted by love! Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease; Take from our souls the strain and stress, And let our ordered lives
confess The beauty of Thy peace. Breathe through the heats of our desire Thy coolness and Thy
balm; Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire, O still,
small Voice of calm.

... John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872

SEALING THE WORD

INTERCESSIONS AND SUPPLICATIONS

(... *In your mercy* ... **Lord hear our prayer**)

THE LORD'S PRAYER [*we pray together*]

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.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 419

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

Repton

1. How clear is our vocation, Lord
When once we heed your call
To live according to your Word,
And daily learn, refreshed, restored,
That you are Lord of all
And will not let us fall.

2. But if, forgetful, we should find
Your yoke is hard to bear,
If worldly pressures fray the mind
And love itself cannot unwind
Its tangled skein of care:
Our inward life repair.

3. We mark your saints, how they became
In hindrances more sure,
Whose joyful virtues put to shame
The casual way we wear your name,
And by our faults obscure
Your power to cleanse and cure.

4. In what you give us, Lord, to do,
Together or alone,
In old routines or ventures new,
May we not cease to look to you -
The cross you hung upon -
All you endeavored done.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1981
Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1888

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

A Gaelic Blessing

John Rutter

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Denise M. Clark-Jones, *Pastor*
Thomas Clark-Jones, *Organist-Choirmaster*
The Westminster Quartet
Melissa Blain, soprano; Kate Kortemeier, alto
J. Douglas McQueen, tenor; David Kortemeier, baritone
Larry Hicks, *Video Producer*

WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF PEORIA and this celebration of the fourth Sunday after the Epiphany. We greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and pray this service will be a blessing to all who participate. The equipment used to live-stream this service has been upgraded on a regular basis since our beginning to broadcast on the Web in March of 2020. Our thanks to Elder Larry Hicks who has worked tirelessly to bring our services to you. His expertise makes the sharing of our worship with our entire congregation possible. And also thanks to Dan Callahan whose beautiful flowers and plants adorn our sanctuary each week.

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TODAY'S MUSIC: The anthem is part of the set called "Songs of Stillness" by the English composer, Andrew Carter (b. 1938). Carter is among the active composers bringing a new and fresh outlook on the historic English church anthem. Along with John Rutter, Richard Shephard and a number of others, these composers have brought a freshness to the choral repertoire which has both built upon the great tradition and transformed it into a form instantly compelling and beautiful to the ear. Here Mr. Carter sets words of John Greenleaf Whittier and the familiar hymn text, "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind", which itself is part of a huge poem called "The Brewing of the Soma". The text speaks to the holiness of the Lord's Day and its calming, gentle effect upon those who would wisely observe it each week. The hymns are by two giants among late twentieth - early twenty-first century hymnodists. Fred Pratt Green was a Methodist minister, ordained in England in 1928 and an active pastor for fifty years. During his ministry he wrote a few hymn texts for specific occasions, but it was not until his retirement that he became one of the most prolific hymn writers of our day. His texts are fresh and new while continuing the great integrity of the English hymn text. The opening hymn is by Thomas Troegger, Presbyterian Minister of Word and Sacrament and Episcopal Priest. He spent much of his career teaching in various seminaries around the US, eventually retiring from Yale University Divinity School. His texts come to the heart of matters, and he is not unwilling to tackle difficult theological concepts in his poems and hymn texts. Not only talented at the written word, Troegger is also one of the most dramatic, and effective preachers of his time. We hope you will enjoy this venture into some recently written texts and music.

ALMIGHTY GOD, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come, life everlasting. Amen.

... A Prayer of St. John Chrysostom

OPEN HANDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS



SUNDAY, 31 JANUARY 2021

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF PEORIA

A Presbyterian Church, USA in the Presbytery of the Great Rivers

1420 West Moss Avenue + Peoria Illinois 61606

www.westminsterpeoria.org