

Sunday, January 29, 2023
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Pastor Kira Anderson

Ushers: Charlie and Maureen Sabrowsky
Greeters: Jason and Lois Nelson
Bell Ringer: Dallas Forsman
Sound Board: Bob Durdahl
Computer: Nolan Hanson
Livestreaming: Paul Jacobson
Acolyte: Aubree Hanson
Reader: John Hobert
Alter Guild: Dar Burdick and Mindy Sindt
Offering Counters: Debra Norstad and Mary Norstad
Pianist/Organist: Jane Bracken, **Choir Director:** Cindy Hayward

Parish Announcements

Join us immediately following the service for our ANNUAL MEETING
Flowers on the Altar are in honor of Bert and Ann Lundell's
57th Wedding Anniversary

Prelude, Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Church Bells

Piano: "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" – Sebastian Temple
Organ: "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" – Beach Spring

Welcome & Announcements

P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**

Sharing of the Peace

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: **And also with you.**
(Please share a sign of God's peace as you are able with your neighbor)

Opening Song “Let Streams of Living Justice” ELW #710 (Verses 1, 2 & 3)

vs1

Let streams of living justice
flow down upon the earth;
give freedom's light to captives,
let all the poor have worth.
The hungry's hands are pleading,
the workers claim their rights,
mourners long for laughter,
the blinded seek for sight.
Make liberty a beacon,
strike down the iron pow'r;
abolish ancient vengeance:
proclaim your people's hour.

vs2

For healing of the nations,
for peace that will not end,
for love that makes us lovers,
God grant us grace to mend.
Weave our varied gifts together;
knit our lives as they are spun;
on your loom of time enroll us
till our thread of life is run.
O great weaver of our fabric,
bind church and world in one;
dye our texture with your radiance,
light our colors with your sun.

vs3

Your city's built to music;
we are the stones you seek;
your harmony is language;
we are the words you speak.
Our faith we find in service,
our hope in others' dreams,
our love in hand of neighbor;
our homeland brightly gleams.
Inscribe our hearts with justice;
your way—the path untried;
your truth—the heart of stranger;
your life—the Crucified.

Call to Worship

- P: People of God, we come to worship.
C: **We come to worship the one true God.**
P: Not with words alone,
C: **but by living lives of justice and love.**
P: Come, you who belong to God.
C: **For all are welcome in this place. We come as we are.**

Confession & Forgiveness

- P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.
C: **Amen.**
P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sins.
(pause for a moment of reflection)
- P: Far too often, O God,
C: **We desire to look wise in the eyes of the world. We have not spoken truth with our hearts. We have said and done hurtful things to our friends. We have forgotten our true identity, wandering into ways that are not yours. We have lost the path of true worship, focusing on form and words rather than deeds. We have forgotten what true discipleship is. And because of this, you have a quarrel with us. Forgive us and help us live into becoming the people you have created and called us to be: people of justice and love and truth and humility. May we embrace our true identity, even in this world.**
P: Dear Friends, God's love embraces us even when we fall short of what God desires for our lives and actions. Know that the God of blessing loves and forgives us with fierce tenderness. Your sins are forgiven, go knowing this truth. Let it guide your lives and may your souls be transformed.
C: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

- P: Holy God,
C: **In your infinite wisdom your kingdom is for all. Give us the hunger and the thirst to work for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord through us. Amen.**

Children's Message

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

¹Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

³“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”⁶“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old. ⁷Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Choir Anthem

Instruments of Your Peace”

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

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

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Song of the Day: "Canticle of the Turning"

ELW #723 (Verses 1, 2 & 3)

vs1

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

vs2

Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

vs3

From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

Apostles Creed

P: God has made us his people through our baptism into Christ. Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles Creed.

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

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 again 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.

Prayers of the People

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: **Hear our prayer.**

Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Offering & Music "Lift Every Voice and Sing" – J. Rosamond Johnson

Offering Prayer

P: Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free.
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and
shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore,
through Jesus our Savior,
C: Amen.

Benediction

Candles Extinguished

Sending Song “God of Grace and God of Glory” ELW #705 (Verses 1, 2 & 4)

vs1

God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

vs2

Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days,

vs4

Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

Choir Blessing: “Go Now in Peace”

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Ringing of the Chancel Bells & Postlude

“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”