

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME & OPENING SENTENCES

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

PRELUDE

The Fifers, C. Dandrieu¹

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God.

People: The firmament proclaims the Lord's work.

Leader: Day by day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

People: Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord.

ALL: O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Let us worship the Lord!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

***HYMN 301**

Let Us Build a House, Two Oaks²

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit. You revealed him as your Beloved Son. We confess we have not always been faithful in your service, as we've strayed from your ways of faith, truth and new life. Keep us, your children born of water and the Spirit, faithful, that we might rejoice to be called children of God. In your loving kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin. Help us to live together forever in your grace. (continue with silent confession). Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: For the love of Christ urges us on because we are convinced that One has died for all; if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away, see, everything has become new!

People: In our forgiveness we are reconciled and are ambassadors for Christ. Amen.

***ACCLAMATION HYMN 582** *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me, Vasile*³

*PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Please turn to the back wall and wave to our online worshippers, offering them the peace of Christ and then greet each other.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the

law. Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Luke 4:14-21

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled

the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

After the message, children may follow the teacher to room 11 for Spiritual Adventures.

SERMON

One in the Spirit!

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN 300**

*We Are One in the Spirit, They'll Know We Are Christians*⁴

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lords Prayer

PRAYER RESPONSE HYMN 292 (verse 2)

*As the Wind Song, Wairua Tapu*⁵

*As the rainbow after rain, as the hope that's born again; so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the green in the spring, as a kite on a string, so it is with the Spirit of God,
making worlds that are new, making peace come true, bringing gifts, bringing love to
the world, as the rising of the yeast, as the wine at the feast, so it is with the Spirit of
God.*

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

OFFERTORY

*Prelude in C Major, J. S. Bach*⁶

***DEDICATION HYMN 608** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow, Praise God*⁷
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Your goodness to us, O Lord is beyond the reaches of our imagination. From you we've received grace upon grace, and your fullness of Light and Love embraces all of our life. Accept our offering today for the sake of the world. All that we have is Thine alone, and all we return to you is but a reflection of your love for us. In Jesus' Name we pray together. Amen

SEALING THE WORD

***HYMN 772**

*Live into Hope, Truro*⁸

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

*Psalm XIX, B. Marcello*⁹

Leaders Today:

Preacher: Rev. Sandy Nuernberg

Liturgist: Troy Lepien

Minister of Music: Joe Chrisman

AV/Tech: Josh Mou

Ushers/Greeters: Jeff & Elsa Shaver, Linda Moss, Eileen Ahearn (Deacon)



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WPC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Meeting Today

We will have our annual congregational meeting in the sanctuary today immediately following worship. We hope you can stay for this brief meeting.

End of Year Statements

EOY statements are available in the nathex on the table by the coats rack. Please stop by and pick up yours. All leftover statements will be mailed Monday.

Pastoral Coverage

Sunday, 1/26 - Rev. Sandy Nuernberg

Our interim pastor, Rev. Sara Tonje, starts next Saturday, February 1.

If you have pastoral needs in the meantime, you may contact Rev. Sandy Nuernberg at sn333@aol.com or 608-695-4248.

The Racial Equity Book Study Continues Today!

The Racial Equity Work Group continues with it's second week of book study on *The False White Gospel* after worship today. This book discusses the Christian Nationalism movement in America and helps us better understand what it is and how we should respond as Christians. Join us in the MJB lounge after worship for this important discussion.

2025 Dine with Nine—Don't forget to sign up

As in the past, we will form groups of 9-10 which will meet several times over the year for fellowship and food. Groups can meet at the church, in homes, at restaurants, at a park, etc. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you can email Katie in the office or Juanita. Any questions, contact Juanita Halls - jjh71152@gmail.com.

February 16 - Intergenerational Movie and Pizza

The Education committee invites all generations to a movie, popcorn and pizza following worship on February 16. We will be watching Inside Out, an animated coming-of-age film by Disney/Pixar. Inside Out follows the inner workings of the mind of Riley, a young girl who adapts to her family's relocation as five personified emotions administer her thoughts and actions. The movie explores themes of: the complexity of human emotions; the challenges of growing up, the need to experience the full range of emotions and the importance of accepting yourself and allowing yourself to feel messy sometimes. A brief discussion will follow the movie.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Care List: Lynn Chapman, Bob Klassy, Bill & Sue Bridson

Members & Friends: Jerry Tarr, Fred DeWitt, Jeff Shaver

Online Giving

Collection plates will be passed around, but if you prefer to donate online, feel free to use this QR Code. Thanks!



