



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 7, 2021

9:00am

**“My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive;
and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style.”**

–Maya Angelou

“I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessing.”

–1 Corinthians 9:23

Prelude

Allegro from Sonata in D Major
Petronio Franceschini

Welcome

Call to Worship

Psalm 147:1, 7, 10-11

Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God;

For he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;

Make melody to our God on the lyre.

His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;

But the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

Opening Prayer

Something is afoot in our world. There is more going on among us than mere words can say. Into our flattened, predictable world comes a surprise. Loving Lord, you never cease to surprise us, make us marvel, and fill us with wonder at your interventions and intrusions among us. We give thanks that you don't wait for us to come to you; you come to us. We give you praise that you call on us before we dare to call upon you. Amen!

Hymn # 33

Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show

Prayer of Confession

You call us to be more than we can become alone. You call us to move beyond ourselves and our comfort.

We have divided what you gave us into “us” and “them,” and “they” cannot measure up to “our” standards. As long as “we” make the rules and set the standards, “they” will always be “them.” And yet “we” were once “them,” and your grace made us into “us.” Surprise! Keep surprising us, Lord. Keep showing up among us, revealing your glory, your miraculous love for us all. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

God is always present for those who open themselves to forgiveness and mercy.

Then let us all raise our voices in praise to the God who unites us and calls us into ministry!

So say it loud and say it proud!

In Jesus Christ, we all are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen!

Response

Blessing and Honor

**Give we the glory and praise to the Lamb;
Take we the robe and the harp and the palm;
Sing we the song of the Lamb that was slain,
Dying in weakness but rising to reign.**

Children's Message

Ministry Updates

Prayer for Illumination

Where else can we go to find your word of promise, O God? What else can we do than open our hearts and minds to hear your words of challenge and call? As we listen to words read today, we commit ourselves anew to fulfill your kingdom in our midst. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Mark 1:29-39

Jesus' ministry continues to grow in effectiveness and renown, as people come to hear and be healed.

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Special Music

Sound the Trumpet
Henry Purcell

The 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 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.**

Giving and Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

Let Us Break Bread Together
arr. Moses Hogan

Hymn # 796

We Come to You for Healing, Lord

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

“Paul uses himself as an example of the lengths God has called us to go in order to help others find healing and wholeness in Jesus Christ. On top of his many sacrifices, he counts them all blessings.

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Sermon

“Message, Media and Ministry”

Bob Sheldon/Caroline Cupp

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Partaking of the Elements (*please gather your bread/crackers/etc. and juice/coffee/etc. in your home*)

Prayer after Communion

In this meal we have tasted and seen that you are good, O Lord.

Give us hearts filled with your love, minds zealous to know you,

**hands and feet willing to serve you, and wills set on following you into the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn # 305

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

Blessing

Response

Eight-Fold Amen

Postlude

Prelude in C Minor, BWV 546
Johann Sebastian Bach

WHAT HAPPENING AT FIRST PRES

Leading us in worship today are Rev. Bob Sheldon, Interim Pastor; Rev. Caroline Cupp, Executive Pastor; Sandor Kadar, Director of Music; Lyndsay Varsaci, soprano; Michael Spaziani, baritone; Ron Ford and Evan Roberts, trumpet.

About Today's Service

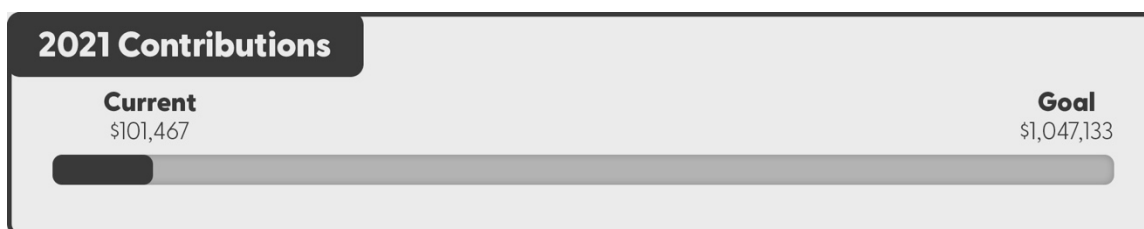
Just as Saint Paul said that his authority rested upon the call and commissioning of Christ, so each of us ought to live our lives as those under the order of Christ. We live not for ourselves, but rather for the sake of Christ and the work that Christ wants us to do in the world.

Prayer for Today

Dear God, as I sit before you today, help me to remember those who have neither a chair upon which to sit or a faith upon which to depend. And help me to be grateful—but to get up and help them find both. Amen.

The **Young Justice Builder's Club** will meet today, February 7, at noon. All elementary-aged kids and their grown-ups are invited to gather on Zoom for a Bingo game that will help us learn some important vocabulary words and terms that are part of having anti-racist conversations. There will also be prizes for all participants! Contact Sara Pantazes with any questions.

Sign-up for Lent Daily Devotion Cards - This Lent, cultivate a frequent rhythm of prayer with daily devotional cards. There is one card per day, beginning with Ash Wednesday and lasting through Easter Sunday. Contemplate the word you select each day, trusting that it is exactly what you need for that moment. Then read the short scripture, reflection prompts, and prayer on the back of the card. We hope these cards encourage you to come to God in prayer again and again throughout the entire Lenten season. You can sign-up to receive this resource on the Sign-up tab of the church's web page. Please contact Sara Pantazes with any questions - spantazes@firstpreswc.com.



The above graph shows the giving amount as of 1/27/2021 compared to the full year goals for contributions so far. This chart will be presented each week to keep the congregation well-informed of our progress. Further details can be found on the Financial Reporting page on our website.