



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 17, 2021

9:00am

**“A community is like a ship;
Everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm.”**
–Henrik Ibsen

“He found Phillip and said to him, ‘Follow me.’”

–John 1:43b

Prelude

Deep River
Traditional spiritual
arr. Moses Hogan

Welcome

Call to Worship

Psalm 139:1-6

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Opening Prayer

Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you called us to come and see your goodness and truth. Help us to follow where he leads us, so that we may see the greater things you have prepared for us in glory, through Jesus, the hope of the prophets and fulfillment of your promise. Amen.

Hymn # 365

God Reigns! Let Earth Rejoice!

Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus, in many and diverse ways you have called each of us to follow you, to walk with you, and to speak up for you.

In the dark days of winter, we confess the shadowy side of our make-up. Our thoughts are often gloomy when they should be joyous. Our judgments of other persons are often grudging when they should be generous. Our sharing of self is often minor when it should be major. Our time for practicing your presence is often splintered when it should be whole. Forgive us for the darkness of our ways, we pray, and let the light that you bring shine in our hearts. We give you thanks that you found a way to get to us, to cut through all of our defenses and reservations, and to call us into your service. For in your kingdom there is no dimness of spirit or shadow of doubt. One more thing, Lord: give us the gifts we need to be faithful to your call upon our lives. Equip each of us to participate fully in your ministry. Make us shine as lights to a darkened world. In your name, O Great Light of the World. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

The Word has come into our world to dispel our darkness.

In him there is light and life for all people. We will let this light shine through us. We have nothing to fear and everything to hope!

God restores us, calls us, guides us and will always support us.

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

You have called us to follow you, Lord Jesus, and given us this opportunity to learn more about what that entails. Grant us courage as well as wisdom for the living of these days. Amen.

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Paul had to reprimand the church at Corinth for their short-sided faithlessness and unwillingness to share God's grace with one another reminding them they all are connected to Christ.

"Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Special Music

Consolation No.3
Franz Liszt

Prayers of the People and 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

Impromptu
Franz Schubert

Scripture Reading

John 1:43-51

The first thing Jesus did was call disciples—followers who would learn from him as they traveled together—including the calling of Phillip and Nathanael as an example for all who would consider answering this invitation.

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

Sermon

“A Conversation”

Rev. Anderson Porter

Affirmation of Faith

A Brief Statement of Faith

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!” (10.4)

Hymn # 634

To God Be the Glory

Blessing

Response

Eight-Fold Amen

Postlude

Procession Alegre
Gary A. Cornell

WHAT HAPPENING AT FIRST PRES

Leading us in worship today are Rev. Bob Sheldon, Interim Pastor; Rev. Caroline Cupp, Executive Pastor; Rev. Anderson Porter, Parish Associate; Sandor Kadar, Director of Music; Kira Boros, Choir Accompanist; Lyndsay Varsaci, soprano; Sam Prochnau, piano.

About Today's Service

As we begin a new year, the church explores the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Just as Jesus first invited and gathered disciples as a means to spread the good news during and after his life, Jesus continues to invite and gather disciples of all ages and abilities to follow faithfully together. Today we gratefully remember God's grace to save and witness to share.

Prayer for Today

I lift my heart to you, O God, as I begin a new year. Thank you for making me part of the church, your sacred community. Nothing will happen to me today that we cannot handle together. Anything can happen to me today that could change my life forever. Amen.

The January Anti-Racism Conversation will take place **today** from noon – 1 p.m. This month's session will have a prayerful focus as we spend time with a prayer of lament written by a First Pres member, reflecting on where we as a community have traveled since we started this anti-racism work last summer, and where we hope to go from here. This session coincides with the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday and we hope many of you will join us for this time of remembrance and reflection. The Zoom link is available at www.firstpreswc.com/racial-justice.

Spiritual Connections - All women are welcome to participate in Spiritual Connections on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 6:30 p.m. On January 25 the group will discuss an episode of the On Being podcast – Love in Action with John Lewis. Starting February 8, the next book discussion will focus on *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor. We will seek to find the sacred in unexpected places. Please obtain your own copy of the book. Questions or requests for Zoom links: Ellen Endsloew at eendslow@verizon.net

Family Hike – First Pres families will be gathering at ChesLen Preserve on Saturday, January 30 at 10 a.m. for a family hike! Bring your kids, dogs, water bottles and masks, and we'll enjoy being together in the great wintery outdoors. We may need to make a last minute change depending on weather, so please let Sara Pantazes know if you plan to attend.

Youth Spaghetti Fundraiser - Traditionally, we would be gearing up as a Youth Ministry to welcome you all to our Annual Spaghetti Dinner at the end of January. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we won't be able to host this dinner. However, we want to still see those funds used to help meet the needs of some of our Mission partners. We are partnering with Limoncello Ristorante to prepare the meals safely. All we need you to help with is the funds to cover the meals! In order to do so, we are hoping that you will partner with us at one or more of the donation levels listed on our website. Just serving one meal to the clients of the organizations we're seeking to help is around 150 meals! We need your help! Our students will be sharing a video in the coming weeks as well as helping to facilitate safely delivering the meals to some of the organizations. You can email Cole Seaman (cseaman@firstpreswc.com) with any questions, and find a full list of details on our website at www.firstpreswc.com/spaghetti. We will be accepting donations through January 31st.

Together Group - In this time of social distancing, we've been missing a sense of belonging. We would like to invite you to help us create that! Join us bi-weekly on Zoom to chat life, faith, your dreams, doubt and everything in between! Let's encourage one another and laugh a ton as we get to know each other better. This is happy hour style so enjoy your favorite snacks, drink, or meal while we hang. Price of admission - bring your favorite meme to share with the group! The first date is Friday, January 22 at 6:30 p.m. Contact April or Eric Hankins for more details and the Zoom link (apriljhankins@gmail.com or ehankins@firstpreswc.com).



The above shows the giving amounts as of 1/13/2021 compared to the full year goals for contributions and pledges so far. These charts 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.