

January 24, 2021

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

**All may stand as able*

Liturgist: John Holcomb

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

The Liturgist

Invocation

The Liturgist

Prelude

Courante

Girolamo Frescobaldi

* CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Jeff Hayes

One: Aren't you glad it's Sunday?

All: We're so glad to be in God's house!

One: Here we get to praise God with all our might!

All: Here we trust and love each other!

One: God loves us so much that God looked forward to this time and place and made it our time and place.

All: Let's worship God.

HYMN

Here in This Place

Marty Haugen

Here in this place a new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away.

See in this space our fears and our dreaming,
brought to you here in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame

Call to us now and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of Your name.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Dr. Jeff Hayes

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Lord God, no one knows better than You how hard we try to be like Jesus and to do what Jesus commands us to do. But no one knows better than You how often we fail to be like Jesus, how often we don't do what He commands us to do. You know that sometimes we're ignorant, but other times we're hard headed:

we can read the Scriptures and understand what they demand of us, but we can also turn away from Scripture, thinking it's old-fashioned and impractical. Remind us, Lord God, that Scripture is always true, and faithfully tells us what You want us to do and how we should live. Forgive us, and we'll do better. Through Christ we pray. Amen!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING THE PEACE

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 10:5-15, 40-42

Jesus sent out the twelve having instructed them saying, "Don't go along the way of the Outsiders or go into a Samaritan city, but rather you all go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go along you all preach saying, 'The Kingdom of heaven is close.' You all heal sickness, you all raise the deceased, you all cleanse lepers, you all cast out demons: you all got for free, so you all give for free. Don't charge gold or silver or brass to put in your wallets, nor a satchel for the road nor two cloaks nor sandals nor a staff: for a worker is worthy of their sustenance. But in whatever town or village you enter, scrutinize who is a worthy person: remain with them until you leave. And when you enter into a house salute it and if the house is indeed worthy, let your peace settle over it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace turn back to you. And whoever doesn't receive you or listen to your words, when you take your leave going out of the house or that city shake off the dust from your feet. Truly I tell you, the land of Sodom and Gomorrah will be better off on the day of judgement than that city.

The one who welcomes you welcomes me, and the one who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. The one who welcomes a prophet recognizing them as a prophet will receive a prophet's wages, and the one who welcomes a righteous person recognizing them as righteous will receive a righteous person's wages. And who ever may give one of the minor ones a cup of cold water recognizing them as simply a disciple, truly I tell you they will never lose their wages.

ANTHEM

Lord, Here Am I

John Ness Beck

Kay Carter, soloist

Lord, you are calling, I gladly obey;
only direct me, and I'll find the way.

Teach me the mission appointed for me,
where is my labor and where shall it be.

**Lord, you are calling and this I reply,
"Ready and willing, Lord, here am I."**

Living or dying, I still would be thine,

Yet I am mortal while thou art divine; willing to follow,
if thou will but lead, only support me with grace in my need.

**Lord, you are calling and this I reply,
"Ready and willing, Lord, here am I."**

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 25:31-45

But when the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne and gather up all the Outsiders before him, then he will separate them from each other just like a shepherd separates sheep from goats, and he will put the sheep on his right side and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right side, "You who are blessed by my Father, come, inherit the kingdom that has been prepared for you since the beginning of the universe, because I was hungry and you all gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you all gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you all took me in, naked and you all put clothes on me, sick and you all cared for me, in prison and you all visited me." Then the righteous will answer him saying, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and fed you, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when did we see you as a stranger and take you in, or naked and put clothes on you? Or when did we see you sick or in prison and come visit you?" And the King replying will say to them, "Truly I tell you, whenever you all did these things for one of the least of these siblings of mine, you all did them for me." And then he will say to those on his left side, "You cursed ones, go away from me into the eternal fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels, because I was hungry and you all didn't give me anything to eat, thirsty and you all didn't given me anything to drink, a stranger and you all didn't take me in, naked and you all didn't put clothes on me, sick and in prison and you didn't visit me." Then they will answer saying, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn't serve you?" Then answering he will say to them, "Truly I tell you, whenever you didn't do these things for one of the least of these, you didn't do them for me."

Then he will send them away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

MESSAGE

The Rev. Dr. Jeff Hayes

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERTORY *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* BRADBURY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER the Liturgist

**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.**

SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

CLOSING HYMN *Called as Partners in God's Service* J. P. Huber
Kay Carter, soloist

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace.
We respond with deep commitment, fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.
Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth.
Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling all on earth.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

*** CHARGE AND BLESSING**

*** Postlude** *Carillon Toccata* Douglas Wagner

We Welcome Rev. Dr. Jeff Hayes

Jeff and Nancy, married since 1983, operate a backpacking hostel in Talladega, Alabama, for hikers on the Pinhoti Trail. Their son, Ian, daughter-in-law, Kerry, and grandchild, Corvid, live in Portland, Oregon. Their daughter, Alexa, lives in Washington, DC. They and their pets (three cats and a dog) live in a carpenter gothic home built in 1854 on four acres of land three blocks East of historic downtown Talladega. Jeff attended Tarrant High School, Maryville College (BA), Yale Divinity (MAR), Emory University (MTS), Columbia Seminary (MDiv), and Princeton Seminary (DMin). His first two masters are in Biblical interpretation, his Doctorate in congregational dynamics leading to congregational decline. He has been a member of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley since 1999 and has served Gardendale, Mountain Brook, Center Point, Springville, and Gulf Breeze (Florida) Presbyterian churches in either a full-time or part-time ministry. Semi-retired since 2008, now he is researching ritual failure and spirit possession in the Gospel of Mark. All other times he serves as arm candy when Nancy needs him to clean up.

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SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

January 24, 2021

The Rev. Dr. Jeff Hayes, Guest Minister

Everyone is welcome in God's house.

*"Jesus said, 'Come to me, all of you who are weary
and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you,
because I am humble and gentle at heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.'"
(Matthew 11:28-29)*