

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service for the Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 22, 2023

Pre-Service Music: *The Love of God* - Marty Parks

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *Meditation* - Tracey Craig McKibben

Introit #754: *Help Us Accept Each Other* vs. 1

Call to Worship

Blessed:

the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek.

We gather to hear who Christ calls blessed;

those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, the persecuted.

Blessed.

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst 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. Amen.

Opening Hymn #19: *God of Great and God of Small* (please stand)

Call to Confession

God has told us what is good, what is required:

Do justice. Love kindness. Walk humbly with God.

These commands are so simple, yet we know we have not always followed them.

With that knowledge, we confess.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we fail to do what is right. Instead, we pursue evil and do not speak the truth. Even when we try our best to be faithful, still we turn away from you. Forgive us, accept us, and redeem us, that we may seek to do what you call good.

Declaration of Pardon

Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom and righteousness, sanctification and redemption, is the one who judges us.

Christ is the one who was born for us and forgives us with abundant love.

We will boast of all the good God has done for us!

Thanks be to God!

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

Glory Be to the Father #581:

(please stand)

Anthem: *The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation* John Leavitt

Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Worship leader will lead the prayers. Merciful God. **Receive our prayer.**

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Cultivate humility in your church. In gatherings of every size, teach us to boast only in the cross. Shape your church to be people of kindness, generosity, and justice.

Merciful God. **Receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified, who taught us to pray:

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

Hymn #754:

Help Us Accept Each Other vs. 2

(seated)

Prayer for Illumination:

Almighty God, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes that we may see the wonders of your Word; and give us grace that we may clearly understand and freely choose the way of your wisdom; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scriptures for the Day

Old Testament Lesson: Micah 6:1 – 8

Epistle Lesson: 1st Corinthians 1:18 - 31

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:1 – 12

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: The Beatitudes or God's Way, not the World's Way Susan Murray

Affirmation of Faith *from Ephesians 3* (stand)

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings (please stand)

Doxology #606: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Prayer of Dedication:

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 a people of your justice and freedom, through Jesus our Savior. Amen.

Sending Hymns #754: *Help Us Accept Each Other* vs. 3 and 4 (stand)
#765: *May the God of Hope Go With Us*

Benediction:

(remain standing)

Take the blessings God has provided and share them all those you meet.

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

Postlude: *Along the King's Highway* - Lani Smith

*Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Jeff Sandquist and Lorie Francis.
Worship led by Cheryl Koederitz and sermon provided by Susan Murray.*

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