

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

Feb. 2, 2025

Pre-Service Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Introit: *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship* arr. B. Harlan

Call to Worship

In you, O Lord, let us take refuge,
so we might never be put to shame.

In your righteousness, O Lord, let us find deliverance,
so we might experience your saving power.

In your presence, O God, let us place our trust,
so we might find confidence in you alone.

You are our rock and our refuge, our fortress and shield.

We turn to you again this day. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Holy, loving God, we look to you this day to return us to the force of love. In our worship and witness, our works and our ways, may we be marked by the contours of your divine love.

Remind us that our songs and words, prophecies and gifts, are nothing if not done in love. Pour out your Spirit this day, empowering us with the radical force of love. Amen.

Opening Hymn 691: *Lord, When I Came into This Life.*
(stand)

Call to Confession

God gathers the insiders and the outsiders; not one is beyond need of restoration.

Trusting this promise, we surrender ourselves in the presence of Christ and one another, as we pray together.

Prayer of Confession

Generous God, when we set our tables, we imagine who belongs. We are satisfied to welcome those who we call our own. Our boundaries are drawn for our own family, our own congregation, our own neighborhood. We limit the seating to those who make us comfortable, and lay out the welcome mat for those who we choose to welcome. But your kingdom has no boundary. Before our birth you have known, loved, and claimed each and every one. Soften our hearts to those we rage against. Restore us to your vision of who belongs at the table. Renew us with your abundant mercy and love, which know no end. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Jesus Christ satisfies each of our shortcomings. It is in God we are given the full vision of love, peace, and justice. This good news is for you: God claims you, Christ welcomes you, and the Spirit draws up your seat at the welcome table.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and restored.
Thanks be to our God now and forever.**

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

Passing the Peace of Christ

Gloria #583: *Glory to God*

Anthem: *Hymn of Promise* arr. Mary McDonald

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

Share any joys, concerns, or updates to the prayer list.

Prayers of the People

When you hear the prompt “God of Grace” respond with “Hear our prayer.”

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

God of generations, you instilled in Anna and Simeon faith, dreams, and the welcome of a child. Bless elders who embody faith and hope; bless the newly baptized. Energize us to share faith from generation to generation.

God of Grace. **Hear our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you O God, trusting in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

Amen.

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings (please stand)

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

Prayer of Dedication:

Blessed are you, Maker of all things. As you have entrusted us with all that you have created, now gather our gifts, nourish us with this sacrament, and send us to those who hunger and thirst, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Hymn #29: *O God, You Search Me* vs. 1, 4 (seated)

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone. Let the heavenly food of the scripture we are about to hear nourish us today in the ways of eternal life, through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen

Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 1:4-10

Second Lesson: Psalm 71:1-6

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:43-48

Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

The Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Speaking With Love* Susan Murray

Communion Hymn#510: *We Gather Here in Jesus' Name*

Invitation to the Table and Prayer of 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.

It is right and our great delight to praise you, O God.

We thank you for your steadfast love in spite of our human sin.

We join with the heavenly choirs and the faithful of every time and place to sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest!

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Together we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death, rising
you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

According to Christ's commandment:

**We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these
your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup
we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and
forever. **Amen**

Let us 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**

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God. *(take the communion)*

Communion Anthem: *Cup of Blessing* Frank Pooler

Prayer After Communion

Gracious Lord, by whose mercy we have proclaimed in word and sacrament the mystery of thy love: help us so to live our lives that we may show forth thy wonders in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Sending Hymn #545: *Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace*

Benediction John Birch-www.faithandworship.com

May the love of Christ be active in your heart,
be heard in your words, be seen in your actions
and inform your choices today and all days.

Go in Peace, Live in Love, **Serve the Lord.**

Postlude

Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by the Chancel Choir and Lorie Francis. Worship led by Maudanne Pursley and sermon provided by Susan Murray. Portions of the service reprinted by permission of Presbyterian Press from Call to Worship®. Copyright 2023, and Sundays and Seasons 2024, Augsburg Fortress Press, Copyright 2023.