

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla

Worship Service for Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 2025

Pre-Service Music: *Since Jesus Came into My Heart*
Charles Gabriel

Welcome and Announcements:

Prelude: *Peaceful Interlude* - Teresa Wilhelmi

Introit #444: *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*
Chancel Choir

Responsive Call to Worship and Prayer of the Day

The way of Christ turns the world upside down.

God's ways are not our ways.

It moves us beyond retribution and cycles of violence.

God's ways are not our ways.

It leads us to enemy-love and scandalous forgiveness.

God's ways are not our ways.

It calls us beyond reciprocity into radical giving.

God's ways are not our ways.

So let us commit our way to the Lord together

**until our righteousness shines like the dawn and
our justice like high noon.**

Prayer of the Day

God of resurrection, throughout the generations you have been forging a path to new life. Though the death-dealing ways of Empire constantly beckon, you call us forth to a different way, reminding us of the power of resurrection. Free us this day from what tries to steal, kill, and destroy, and restore the joy of our salvation, that we might live secure with you. Amen.

Opening Hymn #410: *God is Calling through the Whisper*

Call to Confession

Jesus teaches first by example. The one who says, “Do not judge, but forgive,” asks only of us what he has already done for us. Let us practice the Teacher’s instruction in prayer.

Prayer of Confession

O Christ, the economy of your love is beautiful, expending goodness and extending lines of forgiveness beyond our imagining. The economy of our love is stingy and crooked. We invest love where it can be repaid. We spend mercy where it yields gain. We advance blessing we can bank on. We hold grudges with interest. We do all of this with no recognition of how deeply indebted we are to you. Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, we pray with our whole hearts.

Declaration of Forgiveness

How are the dead raised? Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, our weakness gives way to power, our dishonor disintegrates into glory, and we are raised with Christ. This is gospel!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

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

Passing the Peace of Christ

Gloria #583: *Glory to God* (stand)

Anthem: *Psalm 37* 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.

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

Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all.

God of grace, **Hear our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. We join together in the prayer that Jesus taught his followers 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 #753: *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* (seated)

Prayer for Illumination:

Guide us, O God, by your Word, and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Scriptures for the Day:

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Psalm: Psalm 37:1 – 11, 39 – 40

Gospel Lesson: Luke 6:27 - 38

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *About the wicked...* Susan Murray

Affirmation of Faith Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings: (please be seated)

Offering Hymn #708: *We Give Thee but Thine Own* vs. 1, 2

Prayer of Dedication: John Birch-www.faithandworship.com

All good gifts come from you, dear Lord, and from these riches we bring this offering. Help us to use it for the furtherance of your purpose in this place, and for the benefit of those in need. Amen.

Sending Hymn #246: *Christ is Alive!*

(stand)

Charge and Benediction: John Birch-www.faithandworship.com

(remain standing)

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

Postlude: *Joyful Day* - Mark Hayes

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