



Community Presbyterian Church

Third Sunday after Epiphany
26 January 2025

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

*Call to Worship

(One) The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. We too now see this glorious light.

(All) The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

(One) We have been called out of darkness. We too now see this glorious light.

(All) Like the Magi, we have beheld Christ's glory—His glory as the only Son of the Father.

(One) For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. Christ is the King of all nations. Christ is Lord over all creation.

Opening Prayer

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 19

(One) The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

(All) Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

(One) There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world.

(All) In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

(One) Its rising is from the end of the heavens and its circuit to the end of them, and nothing is hid from its heat.

(All) The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart.

(One) The commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

(All) More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

(One) Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

(All) But who can detect one's own errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

(One) Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless and innocent of great transgression.

(All) Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Hymn (544) *The Church's One Foundation*

(1) The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation, by water and the word:
from heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

(2) Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses with every grace endued.

(3) Though with a scornful wonder we see her sore
oppressed, by schisms rent asunder, by heresies
distressed: yet saints their watch are keeping,
their cry goes up, "How long?" and soon the night of
weeping shall be the morn of song.

(4) 'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore,
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious shall be the Church at
rest.

(5) Yet she on earth hath union with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is
won: O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with
thee.

Prayer of Confession

(All) God of Glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of
the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess
that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light.
We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice;
we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of
our sin, and baptize us once again with your Spirit, that,
forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory
shining in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon

PROCLAMATION

Old Testament Reading	<i>Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10</i>
New Testament Reading	<i>1 Corinthians 12:12-31a</i>
Gospel Reading	<i>Luke 4:14-21</i>

Sermon

***Hymn (595)** *They Will Know We Are Christians*

(1) We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

Refrain:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our
love, Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

(2) We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our
land.

(3) We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's
pride.

(4) All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one.

RESPONSE

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven
and earth. **I believe** in Jesus Christ His only Son, our
Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the
Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
died, and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day
he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is
seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from
thence 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 life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory

*Doxology & Prayer of Dedication

Passing of the Peace

Prayers of the People

(One) In Your mercy ...

(All) ... Hear our prayers.
The Lord's Prayer (sins/trespass)

SENDING

Charge

Benediction

Postlude

Community Presbyterian Church

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Worship Leader/Pianist: Amy Humphreys

SCRIPTURES

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

8:1

All the people gathered together into the square before
the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the
book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to
Israel.

8:2

Accordingly, Ezra the priest brought the law before the
assembly, both men and women and all who could hear
with understanding. This was on the first day of the
seventh month.

8:3

He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate
from early morning until midday, in the presence of the
men and the women and those who could understand,
and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of
the law.

8:5

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people, and when he opened it, all the people stood up.

8:6

Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

8:8

So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

8:9

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law.

8:10

Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD, and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

12:13

For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

12:14

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

12:15

If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.

12:16

And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.

12:17

If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

12:18

But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

12:19

If all were a single member, where would the body be?

12:20

As it is, there are many members yet one body.

12:21

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

12:22

On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,

12:23

and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect,

12:24

whereas our more respectable members do not need this.

But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member,

12:25

that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another.

12:26

If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

12:27

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

12:28

And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues.

12:29

Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work power deeds?

12:30

Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues?

Do all interpret?

12:31

But strive for the greater gifts.

Luke 4:14-21

Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region.

4:15

He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

4:16

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read,

4:17

and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

4:18

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent

me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed,

4:19

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

4:20

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

4:21

Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."