SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 16, 2025
11:00 AM

As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

LIFE OF THE CHURCH Steven Phillips

PRELUDE *Down By the Riverside* Spiritual
(Isaac Mingus, Mark DeRose and Steven Phillips)

CALL TO WORSHIP Mary Willis

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.
Let us worship God.

***HYMN 463** *How Firm a Foundation* FOUNDATION

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Rev. RC Smith

Merciful God,
your call to discipleship is demanding.
You call us to reorder our lives by the kingdom
you are bringing in Jesus Christ.
Yet we still pass by the ones you notice:
people who are poor and hungry;
people who weep.
Comfortable with the way things are,
we are often complacent in the face of
injustice and prejudice.
Forgive us, O God,
and turn us back to your gospel.
We pray this now, for our sake,
and for the sake of your world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
(a moment for silent reflection)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

***SONG OF JOY 611** (v. 1) *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* HYMN TO JOY

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM *El Cielo Canta Alegria* Sosa/arr. Henderson
(The Chancel Choir)

El cielo canta alegría, aleluya!
Porque en tu vida y la mía
brilla la gloria de Dios. Aleluya!

Heaven is singing for joy, Alleluia!
Because in your life and mine
shines the glory of God. Alleluia!

El cielo canta alegría, aleluya!
Porque a tu vida y la mía
nos une el amor de Dios. Aleluya!

Heaven is singing for joy, Alleluia!
Because your life and mine
are one in the love of God. Alleluia

El cielo canta alegría, aleluya!
Porque tu vida y la mía
proclamarán al Señor. Aleluya!

Heaven is singing for joy, Alleluia!
Because your life and mine
proclaim the Lord. Alleluia!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Page 939

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 6:17-26

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Blessed to Be a Blessing* Rev. RC Smith

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Mary Willis

**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.**

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *Fairest Lord Jesus* arr. Eugene Russell

***DOXOLOGY 607** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

from *A Declaration of Faith* (1977)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Mary Willis

**We believe Christ gives and demands of us
lives that recognize all people in all cultures
as our neighbors on this planet.
Christ teaches us
to go beyond legal requirements
in serving and helping our neighbor,
to treat our neighbor's needs as our own,
to care passionately for the other's good,
to share what we have.**

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 172** *Blest Are They* BLEST ARE THEY

Blest are they, the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow;
they shall be consoled.

Refrain:
Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you; holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!

Blest are they, the lowly ones;
they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst;
they shall have their fill. (Refrain)

Blest are they who show mercy;
mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart;
they shall see God. (Refrain)

Blest are they who seek peace;
they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith;
the glory of God is theirs. (Refrain)

Blest are you who suffer hate,
all because of me.
Rejoice, be glad; yours is the kingdom;
shine for all to see. (Refrain)

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev. RC Smith

POSTLUDE Improvisation on "O For a Thousand Tongues" Steven Phillips

The postlude concludes our worship today. It's the custom of this congregation to sit and enter into this moment with gratitude and celebration.

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