

Zoom Best Practices

To make the service run more smoothly and to cut down on distortion and dissonance caused by the response of multiple voices, please leave your computer mic or phone on mute at all times with the exception of the Peace, the Intercessions, and the Lord's Prayer. We will assign and / or ask for volunteers to represent the congregation as one voice for the remainder of the responsorial portions of the service. However, while muted, please do say the words that are written for your response. Even in the muted state, this remains an interactive service.

Order of Service

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Year B

February 7th, 2021

Prelude

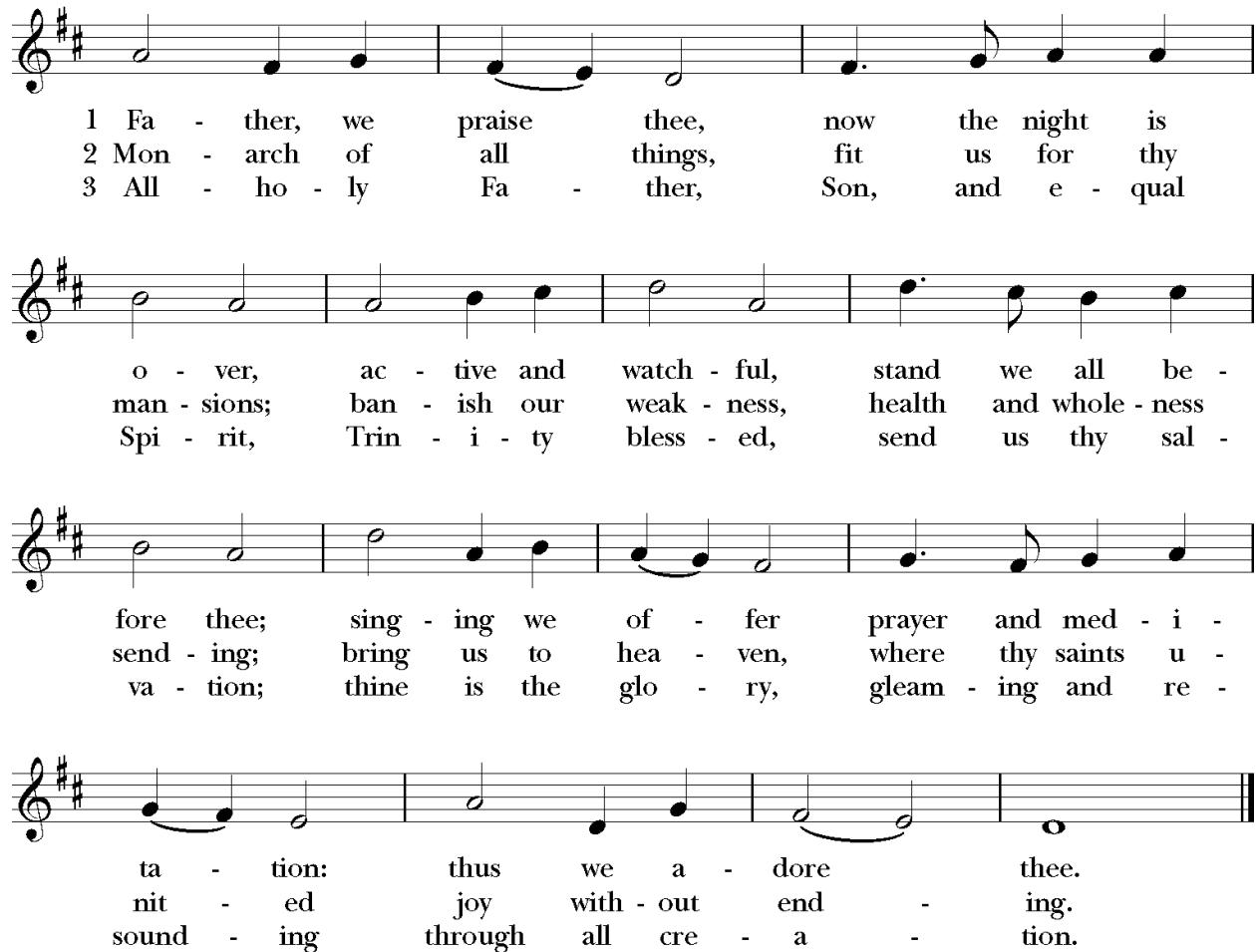
How Excellent

Richard Smallwood

Hymn 1

Father, we praise thee

Christe sanctorum



1 Fa - ther, we praise thee, now the night is
2 Mon - arch of all things, fit us for thy
3 All - ho - ly Fa - ther, Son, and e - qual

o - ver, ac - tive and watch - ful, stand we all be -
man - sions; ban - ish our weak - ness, health and whole - ness
Spi - rit, Trin - i - ty bless - ed, send us thy sal -

fore thee; sing - ing we of - fer prayer and med - i -
send - ing; bring us to hea - ven, where thy saints u -
va - tion; thine is the glo - ry, gleam - ing and re -

ta - tion: thus we a - dore thee.
nit - ed joy with - out end - ing.
sound - ing through all cre - a - tion.

Officiant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Collect

Lord of fierce compassion. You name the forces of death in our hearts and institutions and even in the holy places: lift from us the canopy of fear that feeds on repression and pushes away what it cannot abide; go with us to dark and lonely places where we can learn again who we are called to be; through Jesus Christ, the healer of creation. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 40:21-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;

who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,

when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;

because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,

"My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,

they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Third Reading

Mark 1:29-39

After Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns,

so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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

Homily The Rev. Tami Burks

Affirmation of Faith
We believe in God, Creator of all:
The two-legged, the four-legged,
the winged ones, and those that crawl upon
the earth and swim in the waters.

We believe in God, One Who Walked with Us:
Our Brother Jesus born in humility,
who lived and died for us and
who will come again to bring us to glory.

We believe in God, Spirit with Us:
Ever present and ever guiding, upholding us and
showing us the principles to live by.
We hear God’s voice through the prophets.
Creator, One Who Walked with Us, Spirit with Us, Holy One:
We are named in the waters of baptism as your own,
all of us related, all of us your children.
We watch for signs of your homecoming
and thank you for this sacred circle of life. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Officiant:
Let us offer our prayers to God, who frees us from the bondage of sin and gives us that liberty of abundant life which is revealed to us in Christ Jesus, as we respond, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

Intercessor:
That the Church may discover many ways to present the love of God, reaching people of different cultures, tongues, and understandings with the one message of Christ; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That those who are weary may have their strength renewed, those who are hungry be given the bread of life, those who are sick healed of their illness, and those in despair awaken to hope; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who are peacemakers throughout the world, that their labor be not in vain, but bear fruit that brings new life to the peoples of all nations; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For economic development in our village and state, leading to an increase in employment and financial security; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For family life, that through love and forgiveness relationships may prosper, and children may have the stability that builds emotional, physical, and spiritual wellbeing; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who are sick, and all who minister to them.

Silence

Please add the names of those for whom you wish prayers, either silently or aloud.

Let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who have died, especially children and young adults, that they may find eternal life in the arms of our all-merciful Savior.

Silence

At this time please add the names of those you wish remembered this day.

Let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Officiant:

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask, help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession

Officiant:

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A brief moment of silence is kept

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Officiant:

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Welcome; Birthdays and Anniversaries

Anthem

Rain

Jaco Pastorius/ SWV/ Sunday Service Choir

[Intro]

Fall down, fall down, Lord, please
Let it (Let it), fall down, fall, Lord, please
Fall down, fall down, Lord, please
Let it (Let it), fall down, fall, Lord, please

[Verse]

Sometimes it's soft as a misting rain
That gently touches our souls
It cools the fire that burns in us
And we simply lose control

[Chorus]

So just rain down, Lord, Lord, please
Let your love fall like rain
Just rain, Lord, please
Just rain down, Lord, Lord, please
Let your love just shower us
Just rain, Lord, please

[Verse]

Sometimes it's soft as a misting rain
That gently touches our souls
It cools the fire that burns in us
And we simply lose control

[Chorus]
So just rain down, Lord, Lord, please
Let your love fall like rain
Just rain, Lord, please
Just rain down, Lord, Lord, please
Let your love just shower us

Just rain, Lord, please
[Bridge]
Rain, rain Lord, please (Rain down, Lord please)
Rain, rain Lord, please (We need it, we need it)
Sometimes it's soft as a misting rain

A Prayer For The Time In Which We Are Living

Gracious and merciful God: We are weary. We are overtaken by COVID fatigue. We miss the visits of our family members who do not live with us, the ability to share a meal together, the ability to give one another hugs. In the interest of safety, this virus has caused us to be physically isolated from our neighbors and our friends. Our young children do not understand why this new way of living continues, and our older children bristle against the limitations placed on them. Our teachers, doctors, nurses, and essential workers are overworked and placed in difficult situations with little relief. We as a people are challenged by the lack of a uniform policy that calls us all to observe safety protocols, so we continue to live with so much unknown and uncertain that only heightens our anxiety. Sometimes, loving God, it is so hard for us not to be fearful. Fill our hearts and minds with you so we may do what is required to meet each day with strength and wisdom. Keep us grounded in your peace. Help us to be your hands and heart in all situations, at all times. Surround those who fear with your calming presence. Embrace those who are ill with your healing power. Envelop those who are dying in your loving arms and lead them to eternal life. For you are our guide and our grounding, this day and always. **Amen.**

Blessing

Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us, so be swift to love and make haste to be kind; and the blessing of the Source of All Being, the Incarnate Word, and the Life-Giving Spirit, be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Hymn 679*Surely it is God**Thomas Merton*

1 Sure - ly it is God who saves me; trust-ing him, I shall not
2 Make his deeds known to the peo - ples; tell out his ex - alt - ed

fear. For the Lord de - fends and shields me and his sav - ing
Name. Praise the Lord, who has done great things; all his works his

help is near. So re - joice as you draw wa - ter from sal -
might pro - claim. Zi - on, lift your voice in sing - ing; for with

va - tion's liv - ing spring; in the day of your de -
you has come to dwell, in your ve - ry midst, the

liv - erance thank the Lord, his mer - cies sing.
great and Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

Officiant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.****Postlude***Count Your Blessings*

Timothy Wright