

**THE WORSHIP OF GOD**  
**JANUARY 17, 2021**  
**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**PRELUDE**

**Little Pastorale, Op. 40c**

Gardner Read  
(1913-2005)

*As the prelude is played, prepare your home, yourself, and your family to enter into this time of worship.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVELY)**

Leader: God knows each one of us personally and God loves each one of us.

**People: Thanks be to God for such wondrous love!**

Leader: Come this day into the presence of God.

**People: We come with overflowing hearts!**

Leader: Celebrate God's mercy and compassion.

**All: Praise be to God, who offers us hope. Amen.**

**HYMN No. 451**

**Be Thou My Vision**  
Chancel Choir

**SLANE**

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3. Great God of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art.  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

The gospel calls us to turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ. As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith, we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (IN UNISON)

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength; and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your way, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

## PERSONAL CONFESSION AND MEDITATION (IN SILENCE)

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: The Lord is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but he wishes everyone to come to repentance. As you repent, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you too are forgiven!**

**All: Glory to God. Amen.**

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (IN UNISON)

**Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the Scriptures are read and the Word is proclaimed. Let the word of faith be on our lips and in our hearts, and let all other words slip away. May there be one voice we hear today—the voice of truth and grace. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

### Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act'," says the LORD.

**SERMON**

**"An Amazing, Magnificent Hope"**

Rev. Ross Carter

**CALL TO PRAYER**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Minister: Let us pray.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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, forever. Amen.**

**GIVING**



**OFFERTORY**

**Oh God**

Dustin Kensrue

Aldersgate Praise Team

**DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

**LASST UNS ERFREUEN**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below:**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise God, the source of all our gifts!**

**Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!**

**Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**BENEDICTION**

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## Copyright Acknowledgements

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**2021 Lay Leadership:** The list of the 2021 committee members is available in the Welcome Center.

**Bible Study and Coffee with a Pastor:** Join Pastor Patrick on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. via Zoom for a Bible Study. This study will be ongoing with Pastor Patrick hosting the gatherings in January. If you would like to participate but are unable to join us on Wednesday mornings, these gatherings will be recorded and posted on our website and available to view at a time that suits you.

**Church Office Closed:** The church office will be closed on **Monday, January 18** in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

**January Food Drive:** Front Street's Backpack Ministry supplies food for children at Eastlawn Elementary who would otherwise go hungry over the weekend. In the month of January, we are asking for the following specific food items which will be used to support our Backpack Ministry.

- pasta
- pasta sauce (no glass jars please)
- canned beans
- cans of corn or mixed vegetables
- canned meat
- cans of fruit
- rice
- snack packs (Jell-O or fruit cups)

Please deposit your donations in the Welcome Center. This collection will continue **through January 31.**

**Sanctuary Flowers:** The following dates are available to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or memory of a loved one: **January 24 and 31 and February 7, 21, and 28.** For more information, please contact Linda Paul at 336-543-5081 (cell) or kpaul5@triad.rr.com (email).

## **WORSHIP NOTES**

### **Prelude**

Gardner Read was an American composer and musical scholar who earned both bachelor's and master's degrees from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. For thirty years, he was the Composer-in-Residence and Professor of Composition at Boston University. His compositional output includes orchestral, choral, and chamber works as well as pieces for piano, organ, and solo voice. In addition, he authored a number of texts on musical notation and composition. His "Little Pastorale" (publ. 1957) is based on a single theme that yields three main sections. The middle section uses fragments of the haunting theme in imitation between the hands. The harmonies are fairly traditional, but the occasional ninth chord adds a jazz element.

### **Opening Hymn No. 451**

In a time when the "now" seems to be more important, it is helpful to sing hymns which remind us that throughout the ages the church has produced great ideas which are still valid and useful today. Written around the 8<sup>th</sup> century, the text of "Be Thou My Vision" is a personal prayer that acknowledges God as a light, treasure, and Ruler of all. The Irish melody SLANE with its ABCD form (all four lines are different) enhances the text. It comes from Patrick Weston Joyce's *Old Irish Folk Music and Songs: A Collection of 842 Irish Airs and Songs hitherto unpublished*, 1909. Slane is a hill ten miles from Tara in Count Meath, Ireland, associated with St. Patrick's struggle against Druid priests.