

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
JANUARY 31, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

PRELUDE

Alleluia

Charles Callahan
(b. 1951)

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

OPENING PRAYER (IN UNISON)

Open our hearts and spirits this day to hear the great good news of your power and presence. Fill our hearts with rejoicing. Enliven us and remind us that you are with us. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

HYMN No. 173

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies
Chancel Choir

RATISBON

1. Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the
2. Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa -
3. Vis - it then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of

on - ly light, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, a - rise,
nied by thee; joy - less is the day's re - turn,
sin and grief; fill me, Ra - dian - cy di - vine,

tri - umph o'er the shades of night; Day-spring from on
till thy mer - cy's beams I see; till they in - ward
scat - ter all my un - be - lief; more and more thy -

high, be near; Day - star, in my heart ap - pear.
light im - part, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.
self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

CALL TO CONFESSION

When the Lord comes, He will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore, in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (IN UNISON)

We think we know so much, O God, and with our meager knowledge we presume to judge others. We arrogantly announce our own righteousness without a compassionate thought. We shut others out because of our faulty judgment and our blindness. Help us, merciful God, to again listen to you. Help us to truly open our hearts to you. Remind us again of your great love and presence in our lives. Forgive us our foolishness and our stubbornness. Create in us new spirits, filled with your love, offering peace and hope to all. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

PERSONAL CONFESSION AND MEDITATION (IN SILENCE)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: As we confess, may we gladly receive the grace of God into our lives. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

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

All: Glory to God. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (IN UNISON)

O Lord, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, and strength to follow on the path you set before us; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29

Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Psalm 29

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor. The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox. The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!" The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits

enthroned as king forever. May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

SERMON

"Good for What?"

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

A graphic titled "3 WAYS TO GIVE" with three icons: a smartphone for "TEXT", a computer monitor for "ONLINE", and an envelope for "MAIL". Below each icon is contact information: "Text \$ amount to 336.489.4483", "www.frontstreetumc.org/give", and "PO Box 2597 Burlington, NC 27216".

3 WAYS TO GIVE

TEXT
Text \$ amount to
336.489.4483

ONLINE
www.frontstreetumc.org/give

MAIL
PO Box 2597
Burlington, NC 27216

OFFERTORY

This is My Father's World
Aldersgate Praise Team

Gungor

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

Copyright Acknowledgements

All music is in the public domain or has been used with permission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Walter and Charlene Davis' 70th wedding anniversary by Walter and Charlene Davis.

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

Bible Study and Coffee with a Pastor: Join Pastor Ross on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. via Zoom for a Bible Study. This study is ongoing with Pastor Ross hosting the gatherings in February. Look for the Zoom link in Tuesday's *Front Street Happenings* email. 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.

United Methodist Women: The Corridor District UMW will have a Kick-off Zoom meeting on **Saturday, February 13, 2021** at 9:30 a.m. Registration is required. E-mail Jennifer Freeman, President at president@corridorumw.org or call 919-491-4790 to register. Speaker Rev. Megan M. Pardue will address "Faith and Domestic Violence."

Ash Wednesday Service Drive-Thru: This year, we will observe Ash Wednesday with a drive-thru Imposition of Ashes. On **Wednesday, February 17**, from **noon – 1:00 p.m.**, you can come to the parking lot between Front and Davis Streets to receive ashes. (Enter from Front Street.) We will also have some literature to share containing suggestions that are designed to help you observe a holy Lent at home.

Blood Drive: Front Street will have a blood drive on **Saturday, February 27**, from **8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** in Aldersgate Hall. Note: donors can go ahead and sign up now online at www.redcrossblood.org, sponsor code: Front Street. Also, donors may text or call Gene Fonville at 336-260-8114 (cell) for more information or to schedule your appointment.

Cereal and Canned Goods for the Salvation Army: We continue to collect cereal and canned/dry goods for the Salvation Army. Please feel free to drop off these items any time during the month. You may deposit cereal or other canned/dry goods in the tubs in the cabinet in the Welcome Center or call Betty Huneycutt (336-212-0704) for porch pick up. Thank you for your continued support of stocking the food pantry at the Salvation Army.

WORSHIP NOTES

Prelude

Charles Callahan is a well-known American musician and organist who has been a prolific composer of sacred music for church and concert use. He is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. Additional study has been in England, France, Germany, and Belgium. "Alleluia" is an original composition that was composed in 2011 and published in 2013 in a collection of organ pieces that make for useful and exciting postludes (*Alleluia: A Postlude Collection*). It contains three sections (ABA form) each of which maintains a syncopated rhythm (3+3+2) that is reminiscent of a Latin habanera.

Opening Hymn

This hymn's text was written by Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and first appeared in *Hymns and Sacred Poems*, 1740, under the title "Morning Hymn." The imagery of light and darkness evokes the beginning of the life of faith with each new day and the inauguration of Jesus' ministry in history. Therefore, the hymn is a fitting hymn of praise, especially during the Epiphany Season. It is also appropriate as the opening hymn of Morning Praise and Prayer. The tune first appeared in Johann Gottlob Werner's *Choralbuch*, 1815. It was subsequently harmonized by William Havergal for inclusion in *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861. Ratisbon is the old name for Regensburg, a lovely Bavarian city on the Danube.