

**THE WORSHIP OF GOD**  
**JANUARY 24, 2021**  
**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**PRELUDE**                      **Fantasia I from Musica Dominicalis ("Sunday Music")**                      Petr Eben  
(1929-2007)

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

**OPENING PRAYER (IN UNISON)**

**Give us grace this day, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**HYMN No. 579**                      **Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here**                      **CAREY'S (SURREY)**  
Aldersgate Praise Team

1. Lord God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for  
2. We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and  
3. Lord God, in Christ you call our name, and then re - ceive us  
4. Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and  
5. Lord God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your  
love were made; your liv - ing like - ness still we bear, though  
cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains, by  
as your own; not through some mer - it, right, or claim, but  
call us friends; suf - fer and serve till all are fed, and  
joy to share; give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty to  
marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed; we come, with all our  
so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by powers and sys - tems  
by your gra - cious love a - lone; we strain to glimpse your  
show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -  
turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that  
heart and mind, your call to hear, your love to find.  
close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.  
mer - cy seat, and find you kneel - ing at our feet.  
a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.  
faith can do, while love is mak - ing all things new.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

The first letter of John reminds us, "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." With confidence in Christ our Lord, let us confess our sins together.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (IN UNISON)

**Merciful God, through Jesus Christ you called disciples to follow you: ordinary, complex, and unlikely people. We confess our unwillingness to accept your reign in the world, choosing instead our own ways of judging right and wrong, just and unjust, worthy and unworthy. Too often we stumble off of the narrow way you have called us to live. Indeed, we have chased other gods. We have not loved you with our whole heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Put us again on the path of your righteousness, that we may release whatever holds us back from taking up our crosses and following after you with sincerity and truth. This we ask in Christ's name. Amen.**

## PERSONAL CONFESSION AND MEDITATION (IN SILENCE)

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Hear the good news, again from 1 John: "If anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." 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 Holy Spirit, you who inspired the prophets and filled the disciples with the life of the risen Jesus, kindle in us that same grace and fervor to serve you, that following after this same Jesus, we may behold with wonder the mystery of your love and embrace fully who you call us to be. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

### Mark 1:14-20

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.



**SERMON**

**"God's Claim"**

Rev. Patrick Murphy

**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" showing three methods: TEXT, ONLINE, and MAIL. Each method is represented by an icon in a circle: a smartphone for text, a computer monitor for online, and an envelope for mail. Below each icon are the corresponding details for giving.

**3 WAYS TO GIVE**

**TEXT**  
Text \$ amount to  
336.489.4483

**ONLINE**  
[www.frontstreetumc.org/  
give](http://www.frontstreetumc.org/give)

**MAIL**  
PO Box 2597  
Burlington, NC 27216

**OFFERTORY**

**Dear Lord and Father of Mankind**  
Chancel Choir

Charles H. H. Parry  
(1848-1918)

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
Forgive our foolish ways;  
Reclothe us in our rightful mind;  
In purer lives, Thy service find,  
In deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
Beside the Syrian Sea,  
The gracious calling of the Lord,  
Let us, like them, without a word,  
Rise up and follow Thee.

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,  
Till all our strivings cease:  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
And let our ordered lives confess  
The beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
Thy coolness and Thy balm;  
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still small voice of calm!

*-John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)*

**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**

**Bible Study and Coffee with a Pastor:** Join Pastor Patrick this week on **Tuesday morning** (note date change this week only) at 10 a.m. via Zoom for a Bible Study. If you would like to participate but are unable to join us on Tuesday morning, these gatherings will be recorded and posted on our website and available to view at a time that suits you.

**Methodist Home for Children Fundraiser with Bob Goff:** Here is an opportunity to support Methodist Home for Children. On **January 30**, online for one night only, from your comfy spot at home, join best-selling author Bob Goff—a beloved authority on love, hope, and dreaming big. All the details are available at <https://www.mhfc.org/dreambig/>

**January Food Drive:** Just a reminder that we are in the midst of our January Food Drive in support of our Backpack Ministry! We're collecting specific items which will help feed food-insecure families in our community.

- 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 31 and February 7, 21, and 28**. For more information, please contact Linda Paul at 336-543-5081 (cell) or [kpaul5@triad.rr.com](mailto:kpaul5@triad.rr.com) (email).

**United Methodist Women:** Front Street United Methodist Women has been recognized as a Mission Today Unit for 2020. This acknowledges the various activities that were completed in fulfilling the UMW purpose. 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@corridorwmw.org](mailto:president@corridorwmw.org) or call 919-491-4790 to register. Speaker Rev. Megan M. Pardue will address "Faith and Domestic Violence."

**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**

Petr Eben was a Czech composer, organist, and pianist who was born in Žamberk and grew up in Cesky Krumlov in Southern Bohemia. His childhood was directly influenced by the ravages of World War II, especially the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia. Even though Eben was raised a Catholic, his father was Jewish. Consequently, during World War II at the age of 15 he was sent to the Buchenwald concentration camp. The organ became an outlet for Eben during these difficult years. *Musica Dominicalis* ("Sunday Music") is a four movement organ cycle that was composed in 1957-58. *Fantasia I*, the first movement, adapts a Gregorian theme, "Ite, Missa est," as its primary material. The "Ite, Missa est" ("Go, you are dismissed") is the concluding prayer in the Catholic Mass.

### **Offertory**

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry was a composer and musical scholar who was pivotal in the revitalization of nineteenth-century English musical life. He attended Eton College, where he studied with Sir George Elvey (1816-1893), and earned a degree in music in 1866. After working as an insurance writer, he ultimately became a professor and then director of the Royal College of Music. He died from the Spanish flu in the fall of 1918 during a global epidemic that infected nearly 500 million people. "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" is a hymn-anthem that was arranged by Herbert Arthur Chambers (1880-1967). The music is from Parry's oratorio *Judith*, which was composed in 1888. The text is taken from a longer poem by American Quaker poet John Greenleaf Whittier entitled "The Brewing of Soma."