

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
FEBRUARY 7, 2021
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

PRELUDE

Fanfares and Riffs

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)

Lord God, through Jesus you opened the eyes of the blind; you healed the sick and you fed the hungry. We give you thanks and praise for your mercy and your love, for the ways you restore strength to the weary and give hope to those who are in despair. We gather today being all of these things. And so make us worthy, O Lord, to receive all your gifts in this time of worship. Put your praise upon our lips and your light in our souls that we may serve you in all things. Amen.

HYMN No. 57

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing
 Aldersgate Praise Band

AZMON

1. O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
 2. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -
 3. Je - sus! the name that charms our fears, that
 4. He breaks the power of can - celed sin, he
 5. He speaks, and listen - ing to his voice, new
 6. Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your
 7. In Christ, your head, you then shall know, shall

great Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
 sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the
 bids our sor - rows cease; 'tis mu - sic in the
 sets the pris - oner free; his blood can make the
 life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful, bro - ken
 loos - ened tongues em - ploy; ye blind, be - hold your
 feel your sins for - given; an - tic - i - pate your

God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
 earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
 sin - ner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.
 foul - est clean; his blood a - vailed for me.
 hearts re - jice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
 Sav - ior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy.
 heaven be - low, and own that love is heaven.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God is always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. And so let us confess our sins together, that we may be drawn anew into the mercies of the triune God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (IN UNISON)

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.

PERSONAL CONFESSION AND MEDITATION (IN SILENCE)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Hear the good news: "Christ died for us while we were still sinners." That proves God's love for us. 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, by whose power the Scriptures become for us the Word of God, break us open this day to receive the life that comes from the Gospel, so that your life might be lived through us. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 1:29-39

And leaving the synagogue, they immediately went into the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was lying down because of a fever, and immediately they told Jesus about her. Coming forward, Jesus grasped her by the hand and raised her up; the fever left her, and she began serving them.

When evening had come, after the sun had gone down, the people began bringing to him all those who were sick and afflicted by demons; and the whole city was gathered at the door. Jesus healed many people who were sick with various diseases, and he cast out many demons; and he did not let the demons speak, because they knew him.

Early the next morning, while it was still quite dark, Jesus got up, went outside, and went away to a deserted place; and there he was praying. Peter and those who were with him hunted him down, and upon finding him they said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." And he said to them, "Let's go elsewhere, into the neighboring towns, so that I might preach there also. For this is why I have come forward."

And he came into their synagogues throughout the whole region of Galilee, preaching and casting out demons.



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

3 WAYS TO GIVE

 TEXT	 ONLINE	 MAIL
Text \$ amount to 336.489.4483	www.frontstreetumc.org/ give	PO Box 2597 Burlington, NC 27216

OFFERTORY**Cycle of Light**
Laura Sam, sopranoJoel Martinson
(b. 1960)

Heavy clouds had hung oppressive over winter-weary hearts. Darkened days had dulled our hope and dimmed our gleaming dreams. Then a flaming star appeared beyond the galaxy we knew, attracting our myopic gaze and pointing us to distant places, vistas unimagined. Now we walk a winding path from Christmas star's December birth through Lenten ashes, March endured and death embraced, to April life, the phoenix-risen Easter sun. So light, at last, will lead to Light.

-Delores Dufner (b. 1939)

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**Copyright Acknowledgements**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 are 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** at 9:30 a.m. Registration is required. E-mail Jennifer Freeman, President at president@corridorwmw.org or call 919-491-4790 to register. Speaker Rev. Megan M. Pardue will address "Faith and Domestic Violence."

Methodist Home for Children Sunday/February 14: Children deserve a safe, loving home where they can thrive and live to their full God-given potential. On Methodist Home for Children SUNDAY, you can make this happen. Methodist Home for Children Sunday is the one day a year when congregations take up a special collection for the children served by MHC – children who come from empty homes, failing in school, looking for acceptance in all the wrong places. We see hope in each one of them – and you bring that hope to life. Thank you for believing and for giving. You may drop

off your donation in the church office or mail to the church. Please note in the memo line: MHC Sunday.

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. The literature will also be available on the church website (beginning February 18) and in the Welcome Center.

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

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.

Sermon Image: *"Healing of Peter's Mother-in-law," ca. 1660, Rembrandt H. van Rijn.*

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. "Fanfares and Riffs" (publ. 2006) was commissioned by the Central Hudson Valley Chapter, New York, American Guild of Organists. A riff is a short, hopefully memorable phrase; a small rhythmic and/or melodic motif that lends itself to repetition, variation, and all sorts of improvisatory transformations. In this piece, the fanfares contain rhythmic alterations within the normal common time structure. These flourishes build dynamically, and are interrupted several times by the riffs, which are also syncopated and built on melodic alterations or "blue notes" not in the customary major or minor scales or church modes.

Hymn No. 57

Charles Wesley (1707-1788) was one of the most prolific hymnodists in Christian history, writing well over 6,000 hymns and poems that have been enjoyed in worship by generations of Christians since his time. As the younger brother of John Wesley, he helped to ignite and grow the Methodist movement within the Church of England during the greater part of the eighteenth century. Wesley composed the renown hymn "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" for Sunday, May 21, 1739—the first anniversary of his conversion on Pentecost Sunday, or Whitsunday as it was known then. His conversion had preceded by three days John Wesley's famous reaffirmation of faith at Aldersgate Chapel. Originally comprising eighteen stanzas, the shorter version we find in the current hymnal emphasizes the great reversal that salvation through Jesus Christ achieves in human life. Indeed, Wesley uses antithesis throughout to contrast the darkness of sin with the light of the atoning blood that heals and humble our hearts, and replaces our fears with the rejoicing for a new life. This contrast underscores the nature of Wesley's own conversion.

Offertory

Joel Martinson is considered to be one of the finest church composers writing today. He was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and earned bachelor's and master's degrees in organ performance with a concentration in composition from the University of North Texas. Currently, he is the Director of Music and Organist at The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in Dallas, Texas, where he coordinates the vibrant musical life of the parish. This work comes from *Cycle of Light*, which is a collection of six sacred songs for the liturgical year based on texts by women. The cycle was premiered by bass-baritone Burr Cochran Phillips and pianist Terry Lynn Hudson on January 25, 1996 at Irons Recital Hall, University of Texas at Arlington. The text of the title song, "Cycle of Light," was written by Delores Dufner, a Benedictine Sister from St. Joseph, Minnesota, who resides in Saint Benedict's Monastery. Her background in liturgy and her use of rich imagery connecting the seasons of nature with the seasons of the church are evident in this poem.