Westminster
Presbyterian Church

FEBRUARY 7, 2021
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
SCOUT SUNDAY

Welcome and Announcements — **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Minute for Mission — *Souper Bowl of Caring* — **Devin Carroll**

Gathering Words — **Jason Carroll**

You are the One for whom we search, O God,
We worship you because you have found us.
You are the hope for which we yearn, O Christ,
We follow you to serve at your side.
You are the peace which can calm us, Holy Spirit,
Help us welcome what we and the world needs
to restore what has been broken.

Opening Prayer — **Mark Gooch**

Compassionate One,
both tender and righteous,
you are so patient with pain.
And yet, so passionate for justice.

What is like a paradox to us,
to you it is simply the movement of love.
Teach us to practice this discernment.
To know when love calls for gentleness or for challenge;
when to push and when to be still.
Within, and with others.
Amen.

Opening Hymn No. 411 — God is Here Today — DIOS ESTÁ AQUI

God is here today;
As certain as the air I breathe,
As certain as the morning sun that rises,
As certain when I sing you'll hear my song.

Dios está aquí,
Tan cierto como el aire que respiro,
Tan cierto como la mañana se levanta,
Tan cierto como que le canto y me puede oír.

Prayer of Illumination — **Craig Reynolds**

Gracious God,
by your Holy Spirit
tell us what we need to hear
and show us what we ought to do
to obey Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading **Ephesians 4:24b-32** **Craig Reynolds**

[24]Clothe yourselves with the new self,
created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

[25]So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. [26]Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, [27]and do not make room for the devil. [28]Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. [29]Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. [30]And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. [31]Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, [32]and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Reflections **John Veney and Jason Carroll**

Hymn No. 515 I Come with Joy DOVE OF PEACE

1 I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,
The life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me,
In love laid down for me.

2 I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
The new community of love in Christ's communion bread,
In Christ's communion bread.

3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,
And strangers now are friends.

4 The spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near,
Is in such friendship better known, alive among us here,
Alive among us here.

5 Together met, together bound by all that God has done,
We'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one,
The love that makes us one.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

The Lord be with you!

Blessed are you, God of majesty and mercy.
For you have called forth the whole universe and raised us from dust by your Spirit.

We bless you for the beauty and bounty by which each of us was wonderfully made in your image. Today we especially thank you, God, for the gift of the indigenous people from Kenya to Haiti. There are many other places not mentioned but acknowledged for your astounding creation.

As we enter Black History month—but not only this month, we recognize and give thanks for the contributions of your Black children to our being; for people like Dr. Shirley Jackson for fiber-optic cable, for Otis Boykin

for the pacemaker, for Philip Emeagwali—a drop out, for the world's fastest computer, for Katherine Johnson for her mathematical skills that helped humans to reach space, for Katie Geneva Cannon, the first black woman ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Northern Presbyterian Church, for Amanda Gorman, youth poet laureate. Above all, we give thanks for the gift of Jesus, your son and our Savior.

Christ was born fully human and fully divine. He shares in our joys and sorrows. He shared in the joy of our resilience despite the deathly terror of the African enslavement and shared in the sorrow that his gospel didn't compel transformation and quick abolition. He shared in the joy of the Emancipation Proclamation but equally shared in the sorrow of a people who have worked and are still working so hard to override, overturn, and recreate that which it was designed to eradicate. Yet and still, Jesus offered his life in obedience and trust in God.

We bless you, O God, for the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit. That Holy Spirit leads us into truth, fights for justice and equality, continues to gather us as believers even in the face of adversity, and moves us to be empowered by your love. It is the movement of the Holy Spirit that allows us to trust in the life, death, and resurrection which reconciles us to you.

We pray, O Lord, that as we take this bread and this wine as a gift from you that we may celebrate with joy and hope of the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Please pour out your blessings on this bread and this cup as we remember you, your gifts, and your mystery. Help us to be forever mindful that Black lives matter too. Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, as a willing, living, and holy sacrifice and offering of ourselves, our whole selves, that we may be honest enough to live our lives with authenticity, truth, honesty, and integrity so much so that our very lives proclaim Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

Now, together let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn No. 761 Called as Partners in Christ's Service BEECHER

Benediction **John Veney**

May God bless us with discomfort
at easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships,
so that we may live deep within your heart.

May God bless us with anger
at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,
so that we may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless us with tears
to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war,
so that we may reach out our hand to comfort them.

And may God bless us with enough foolishness
to believe that we can make a difference in the world.
Amen.

*Note: The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving was adapted from the Rev. Amantha Barbee and Dr. Kelly Brown. The Benediction is from an unknown source.