First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem
Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
Combined Service
January 30, 2022

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Love is Greater Than Fear — Hannah Rand

Verse 1
When I can't take the first step
When all I'm holding is my breath
I pray that you are there

Verse 2
When I can't seem to forget
When I can't see the morning light yet
I pray that you are there
I pray love is greater than fear.

Chorus
Love is greater than
Love is greater than
Love is greater than fear

Verse 3
When I can't find another way
When I don't have the words to say
I pray that you are there
I pray love is greater than fear

Chorus
Love is greater than
Love is greater than
Love is greater than fear

Love is greater than
Love is greater than
Love is greater than fear

Unfailing Love — Chris Tomlin

Verse 1
You have my heart
And I am Yours forever
You are my strength
God of grace and power
And ev'rything
You hold in Your hand
Still You make time for me
I can't understand

Chorus
Praise You God of earth and sky
How beautiful is Your unfailing love
Unfailing love
And You never change God You remain
The Holy One and my unfailing love
Unfailing love

Verse 2
You are my rock
The One I hold on to
You are my song
And I sing for You
And ev'rything
You hold in Your hand
Still You make time for me
I can't understand

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: Jesus said to his disciples, "I give you a new commandment: that you love one another."

People: "Just as I have loved you," Jesus said, "you also should love one another."

Leader: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples: if you have love for one another."

People: Let us come together in love to worship the Lord who loves us!

OPENING HYMN #280

Amazing Grace AMAZING GRACE

Verse 1
Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now am found
Was blind but now I see

Verse 2
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Verse 3
Through many dangers toils and snares
I have already come
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home

Verse 4
When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Loving God, in Jesus Christ you taught us the meaning of love, giving yourself for us so that we might have abundant and eternal life. In receiving your love, you also commanded us to share it by loving others. We confess that we often treat your love as a possession rather than a gift: something to be held tightly rather than something to be shared. Forgive us, Lord, and teach us the meaning of love once more, that we may love others with grateful hearts, and they may know us as Christ's disciples as we do.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 JoAnne Turcotte

Leader: The word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON The Rev. J.C. Austin

"Love: That's What's Happenin'"

WE RESPOND

HYMN #171

The King of Love My Shepherd Is ST. COLUMBIA

1 The King of love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine forever.

2 Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul He leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feedeth.

3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love He sought me,
And on His shoulder gently laid,
And home, rejoicing, brought me.

4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before to guide me.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH **(adapted from 1 Corinthians 15)**

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory His Mercy is More (see insert) Matt Boswell
Contemporary Ensemble

*Response - #592 OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him, above ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

*Prayer of Dedication

CLOSING HYMN #376

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling HYFRYDOL

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

2 Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit,
Let us find that second rest;
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

4 Finish, then, Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Send forth Your spirit", from *Symphony for Organ*
Christopher Tambling

In loving memory of my husband Capt. Hugh Spicer
on our Anniversary ~ Fran Spicer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hearts N Minds, our adult ed class, will meet today at 4 p.m. via Zoom to discuss Chapters 4 and 5 in *The Case for the Psalms*; also please read "The Beautiful Creation" (Psalms 103-104).

- To join online for the video class, use this Zoom link: **bit.ly/3Kq7vM6**
- To join on the phone for audio only, call 929-205-6099, then enter the meeting ID: 857 2714 8575, then press # and then # again.

The Discipleship Committee is offering a new series, *What Does It Mean to Confess the Faith Today?* The first of three sessions begins this Wednesday, February 2 from 7-8:30 p.m. via Zoom. It will be led by The Rev. Dr. Steve Simmons.

- To join online for the video class, use this Zoom ling: **bit.ly/3aeqLLD**
- To join on the phone for audio only, call 929-205-6099, then enter the meeting ID: 385 500 4307, then press # and then # again.

****Offertory****

His Mercy is More **Matt Boswell**

Verse 1
What love could remember no wrongs we have done
Omniscient all knowing He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Verse 2
What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father so tender is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Verse 3
What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Chorus
Praise the Lord His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness new every morn
Our sins they are many His mercy is more