

First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

Fourth Sunday After The Epiphany

Combined Service

January 31, 2021



The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Carillon

Leo Sowerby

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PASSING THE PEACE

OPENING HYMN

God, Bless Your Church with Strength!

#418

ICH HALTE TREULICH STILL

1 God bless your church with strength!
Wherever we may be,
up build your servants as we work
in common ministry.
Urge us from fledgling faith
to venture and to soar
through open skies to sing the praise
of Christ whom we adore.

2 God bless your church with life!
May all our branches thrive,
un blemished, wholesome, bearing fruit,
abundantly alive.
From you, one holy vine,
in freedom may we grow;
sustain us in our mission, Lord,
your love and peace to show.

3 God bless your church with hope!
Despite chaotic days,
may we in darkness shine to light
a pathway through life's maze.
May justice be our aim,

and kindness ours to share;
in humbleness oh may we walk,
assured our God is there!

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFSSION

PRAYER OF CONFSSION

Holy God, in Jesus Christ you have revealed the fullness of your love and grace, setting us free from everything that seeks to bind us, and setting us free for lives of joyful service. Yet we often have divided loyalties; we trust too much in ourselves, and we do not trust enough in your promises and presence. Forgive us, Lord, and strengthen our faith for living as your people, so our lives may reflect your love, and our ministry may build up your kingdom.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Darkness and thunderclouds are round about Him”

From *Biblical Songs*, Op. 99

Antonin Dvorak

Rebecca Erhardt, soprano

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE 1 Cor 8:1-13

Leader: The word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON

The Rev. J.C. Austin

“Some Assembly Required”

WE RESPOND

HYMN

#339

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

1 Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art--
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

2 Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

3 Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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 "Improvisation"

Kellen Pisani, Guitar

*Response #592
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow OLD HUNDRETH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

CLOSING HYMN #387
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us BRADBURY

1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessèd Jesus, blessed Jesus,

Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

2 Thou hast promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse, and power to free:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee.

3 Early let us seek Thy favor;
Early let us do Thy will;
Blessèd Lord and only Savior,
With Thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Allegro Maestoso

John E. West