

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

8:30 a.m.

January 30, 2022

11:00 a.m.

Prelude - When Morning Gilds the Skies - Jason Payne

Call to Worship

God has accomplished all things through Christ
so that we might live as God's own children.
Let us give thanks to God
and live for the praise of God's glory.

Opening Hymn No. 98 - To God Be the Glory

To God be the glory, great things he hath done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the lifegate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.
(Refrain)

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.
(Refrain)

Invocation

Our heavenly Father, we, your humble children, invoke your blessing on us. We adore you whose name is love, whose nature is compassion, whose presence is joy, whose word is truth, whose spirit is goodness, whose holiness is beauty, whose will is peace, whose service is perfect freedom, and in knowledge of whom stands our eternal life. Unto you be all honor and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages

Scripture Reading

Mark 10:13-16 (New Testament page 46/43)

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

God's Word for Young Disciples

Anthem - I Am His, and He is Mine - Ovid Young

Sermon - All I Really Needed I Learned in Sunday School: Wonder

Pastor Mike Ward

Hymn of Response No. 500 - Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art,
and make me love thee as I ought to love.

I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel visitant, no opening skies;
but take the dimness of my soul away.

Has thou not bid me love thee, God and King?
All, all thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind.
I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.
O let me seek thee, and O let me find.

Teach me to feel that thou art always nigh;
teach me the struggles of the soul to bear.
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh,
teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Teach me to love thee as thine angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame;
the kindling of the heaven-descended Dove,
my heart an altar, and thy love the flame.

Discipleship Moment

Doxology

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.

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.

SENDING FORTH

The people of God are sent forth to serve others and witness to their faith.

Closing Hymn No. 463 - Lord, Speak to Me

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak
in living echoes of thy tone;
as thou has sought, so let me seek
thine erring children lost and lone.

O strengthen me, that while I stand
firm on the rock, and strong in thee,
I may stretch out a loving hand
to wrestlers with the troubled sea.

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach
the precious things thou dost impart;
and wing my words, that they may reach
the hidden depths of many a heart.

O fill me with thy fullness, Lord,
until my very heart o'erflow
in kindling thought and glowing word,
thy love to tell, thy praise to show.

O use me, Lord, use even me,
just as thou wilt, and when, and where,
until thy blessed face I see,
thy rest, thy joy, thy glory share.

Benediction and Choral Response - (Hymn No. 666)

Shalom to you now, shalom my friends. May God's full mercies bless you, my friends. In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

Postlude -And Again I Say Rejoice - Brenda Portman



The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and given:

in loving memory of Charles and Naomi Putman, by Joan Bowles and family;
in loving memory of Floreda Hope and Robert Wagner, by Wendy and Keith Gillespie.

Altar Guild: Carol Lewis, Elizabeth Stroud

Music: One License A-731491

****Please rise as you are able. Please silence all cell phones and other electronic equipment. Hearing devices and large print hymnals are available in the narthex. CDs of the service are available by signing up at the Welcome Center.**

CHURCH NOTES

Pledge Cards: If you have not yet turned in your 2022 pledge card, please do so by either dropping it in the drop box in the breezeway, or bring it to Sunday morning worship. If you are unable to stop by church to drop it off, please call our Financial Officer, Nancy Yeager, Ext. 216, and she can take your pledge information over the phone!

Adult Discipleship Classes: Our new adult discipleship classes will begin on Sunday, February 6. "Ministry By Strength" will meet at 5:45pm, with our plan at this time to meet in person. Please go to the church website, or call the church office and sign up. The cost is \$20 for your top 5 strengths or \$49 to get all 35. We will also begin a "Disciple Like Jesus" class that week either in person or on zoom. Please contact Pastor Karol with your preference. We are targeting Sunday at either 4pm or 5:45pm if that works for folks. We hope you will be able to join us.

Children's Ministries: As of now, we are still continuing our pause of all in-person children's activities for the month of January. Sunday school, however, is being held online at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, and if you have not received the link and would like to, please contact Donna Curfman. Children's worship during the morning service and the evening music rehearsals and ROCK activities are not being held. There is child care for children up to age 3 at the 11:00 a.m. service.

Altar Flowers: We are still taking orders for altar flowers in 2022. The cost is \$38 and the church takes care of ordering and delivery. If you would like to reserve a date, contact Christy Meyers at cmeyersfallsumc@gmail.com or Ext. 210.

Hat & Mitten Mission: Winter has definitely arrived, and there are people in our community that do not have winter hats or gloves/ mittens. Please consider donating new winter hats/gloves/mittens, or even socks to help those that are in need. Donated items may be dropped off on the missions table located outside the church library. IF you would like to place the items on the line near the corner of Portage Trail & 3rd street, please place the items in ziplock baggies and put one of the mission cards (located on the missions table) in the bag.

Blessing Box: Our blessing box continues to live up to its name by helping those in our own community with needed items. We are in need of the following items: personal hygiene items (toothpaste, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, etc. Dry goods, ramen noodles, canned soups, granola bars, all continue to be needed. Please do not donate items in glass jars/ bottles, as the cold can cause the glass to shatter and possibly hurt someone. The donation table is located outside the church library, or you may place the items in the box yourself.

Children's Ministries: We are anticipating that we will be able to restart our children's ministries next Sunday, February 6.

This includes Sunday School for all ages preschool through grade 6 at 9:45 a.m. and ROCK activities from 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Please note that the ROCK program will end a half an hour early for the rest of the sessions. Also, the cost of our evening meals will increase to \$3 for children and \$4 for adults.

Children's Worship will not start until Feb. 13 as we reserve the first Sunday of the month for children to attend the worship service with their parents to participate in Communion.

It is important that all children in a bell ensemble communicate their availability to participate in the coming months. Please text Dean Wagner at 330-310-9631 by Wednesday, Feb 2 about your commitment and plans.

Complete details on all programs are included in the weekly Parent Guide Letter or by contacting Donna Curfman.

Next Steps

¹⁴ But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.

¹⁵ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.”

Questions for Reflection:

We were created to live in relationship- with neighbors, friends, loved ones, and above all with God. Think about the relationships in your life. Where do you find help and partnership (Gen 2:18)? Where do you feel the strain of separation (Mark 10:9)? Who do you allow to get close to you, and who do you turn away (Mark 10: 13-16)? In what ways do those relationships reflect your relationship with God?

Questions for Discussion:

Why does the kingdom of God belong to the children? What can they offer that adults cannot?

What does it look like to receive the kingdom of God as a little child?

What changes would you have to make in order to receive the kingdom like a child?

As an adult, how can we become like children, to know Jesus like a child does?

Memory Verse:

¹⁵ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.”

Readings for Next Week:

Genesis 1:26- 2:3 Isaiah 6: 1-8 (9-13) Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11 Luke 5: 1-11

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH – PRAYER BULLETIN January 30, 2022



MINISTERS & STAFF:

Forrest Waller

HOSPITALIZED:

We are unaware of anyone in the hospital at this time.

MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

Scott Adie	Dave Gohr	David Potter
Bob Ahonen	Rose Gregory	Robby & Lou Robinson
Shirley Asher	Joyce Haberkost	Kathi Sawyer
Alice Becher	Jim Henes	Linda Sterling
Behrman family	Dr. Jim Lewis (Patsie)	Kay Steiner
Donna Copeland	Isabel Lindsey	Michael Taucher
Don Corbett	Lavinia McIntyre	Ken Tunstall
Jean Finnegan	Pat Park	Jim Vogel

DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:

Family of member Eleanor Frantz on her death on 1/26.

Sue and Bob Boltz and family on the death of her mother, Betty Mutchler, on 1/13.

Kendra Jozsa and family on the death of her husband, Frank Jozsa, on 1/18.