

Second Sunday after Epiphany

10:30 a.m.

January 14, 2024

GATHERING

The people of God come together in the Lord's name

Prelude - *Holy Manna* - Raymond Haan

Introit - *Sing Praise* - Ruth Elaine Schram

Call to Worship

Jesus taught us the greatest commandment is to love God.

We love him, so we keep his commandments.

Jesus prayed for us to know God

We know him, because he abides with us.

Opening Hymn 384** - *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

*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.*

*Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.*

*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.*

*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.*

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 all glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PROCLAMATION

The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages.

Scripture Reading - Psalm 119:33-35

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

Gloria Patri (sung)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

God's Word for Young Disciples

Anthem - *Yet Will I Sing* - Alisa Bair

Scripture Reading - Matthew 5:43-48

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

Sermon - *Toward the Image of God*

Pastor Jon Priebe

RESPONSE

The people of God respond to the Word

Hymn of Response 472** - *Near to the Heart of God*

There is a place of quiet rest,
near to the heart of God;
a place where sin cannot molest,
near to the heart of God.

Refrain:

O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
sent from the heart of God,
hold us who wait before thee

near to the heart of God.

There is a place of comfort sweet,
near to the heart of God;
a place where we our Savior meet,
near to the heart of God.
(Refrain)

There is place a place of full release,
near to the heart of God;
a place where all is joy and peace,
near to the heart of God.
(Refrain)

Discipleship Moment

Offertory - Lord, Speak to Me - Haan
(Please fill out the attendance sheet found in the pew.)

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/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 467** - Trust and Obey

*When we walk with the Lord
in the light of his word,
what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will,
he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.*

Refrain:

*Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*

*Not a burden we bear,
not a sorrow we share,
but our toil he doth richly repay;
not a grief or a loss,
not a frown or a cross,*

*but is blest if we trust and obey.
(Refrain)*

*But we never can prove
the delights of his love
until all on the altar we lay;
for the favor he shows,
for the joy he bestows,
are for them who will trust and obey.
(Refrain)*

*Then in fellowship sweet
we will sit at his feet,
or we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do,
where he sends we will go;
never fear, only trust and obey.
(Refrain)*

Benediction and Response - Into the Coming Days - Schram

Postlude - Rejoice the Lord is King - Haan



**The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and given:
in loving memory of George and Doris Kuzas, by Kathy Kuzas and family**

Music: One License A-731491

NEXT STEPS

The Rightful King

The first _____ of Jesus were non-_____ from Persia

Matthew only calls Herod “ _____ ” until the _____ arrive

I Respectfully Disagree

Eph. 3:10 – _____ in difference displays God’s _____

this helps teach us _____: “I may be _____, but...”

Matthew 5:22 – in conflict, we must _____ our hearts from _____

Questions for Reflection:

Are there some kinds of Christians who really make me uncomfortable? If the variety in the church helps display God’s wisdom, what can I learn of God’s wisdom from them?

Question for Discussion:

Share a time when you saw the diversity and difference of those who follow Christ. Are you usually around Christians who are like you or who think differently?

Memory Verse: *Ephesians 3:10* – “so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.”

Readings for this Week: Genesis 1:24-31, Acts 10:1-16, Philippians 2:1-4

CHURCH NOTES

Children's Ministries: Evening Children's Activities will begin again next week. Bell rehearsals are at 4:00 p.m., choirs are at 4:30 p.m., followed by dinner and ROCK activities including the Wesley Youth Group until 7:00 p.m. Please come join us as we begin our winter session.

Thinking about joining First Church? We want to help you get connected through our Discipleship Pathway. Discovery, our first class, begins next Sunday, January 14, at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. It will be led by Pastor Jon. Come and discover who we are as a denomination and local church serving this community. For questions and sign-up, please see or contact Pastor Pippin.

Daniel: Lives of Integrity, Words of Prophecy: This study by Beth Moore will be the next one offered by the Women's Bible Study. The prophet Daniel faced unbelievable pressures to compromise his faith, to live in a hostile culture, and to confront temptations and threats. Today, believers in Jesus Christ face many of the same trials. The first portion deals with that, while the second portion explores thrilling prophecies from the time of Daniel through the second coming of Christ. They meet on Tuesdays (7-9 pm) or Wednesdays (10 am-noon) beginning January 30/31. The cost is \$20. Please contact Kathy Kuzas by January 16 at 330-923-5241 x 212 to register.

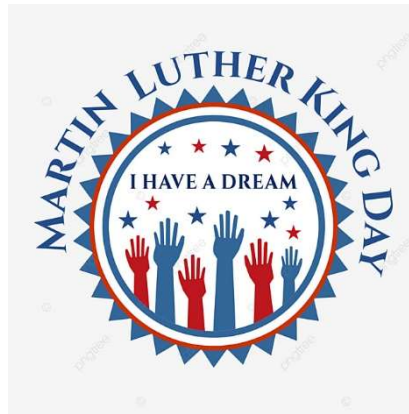
Hats, Gloves, Scarves Mission: We have started our annual mission now that winter is here. We are asking for new or gently-used gloves/mittens/winter hats, scarves, or new socks. The donation table is located across from the church library. Items may be left there, or if the line is empty, please feel free to bag the items, then place them directly outside on the line.

ANTHEM

The Work of Christmas. – Dan Forrest.

When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flock, The work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations, To bring peace among brothers, To make music from the heart.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
JANUARY 14, 2024**



MINISTERS & STAFF:

Forrest Waller

HOSPITALIZED:

MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

Scott Adie	Linda Demeter
Bob Ahonen	Mary Griest
Debbie Amundsen	Lee Minier
Glenn Atwood	Kathi Sawyer
Jim Bailey	Martha Shoults
Bill & Janet Blank	Ken Tunstall
Mark & Cindy Blaser	

DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:

Patt Combs and family on the death of her husband, member Ed Combs on 12/23.