

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

10:30 a.m.

January 28, 2024

GATHERING

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

Prelude - *Meditation on Jesus* - H. Dean Wagner

Introit - *Hear the Glad Sound* - Stan Pethel

Call to Worship

Come, let us praise the Lord!

We praise God with our whole heart!

God's works are great! Open our hearts and spirits to see your works, O Lord!

Come, let us worship the Lord who has saved us!

Opening Hymn 64** - Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

*Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.*

Invocation

Open our hearts and spirits this day to hear the great good news of your power and presence with all your people. Fill our hearts with rejoicing as the words are proclaimed in song and story. Enliven us and remind us that you are with us, through the magnificent words of the prophets and apostles, through the ministry and love of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

PROCLAMATION

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

Scripture Reading - Psalm 111 (Old Testament p.563/532)

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 - *Think on These Things* - Mark Patterson

Whatever is pure, whatever is true,
Whatever is noble and just and good;
Think on these things, live by these things,
Rejoice together in these things,
And the God of peace will be with you.

All that's pure, all that's true,
All that's noble and just and good;
Think on these, live by these things,
Rejoice together in these things,
And the God of peace will be with you.

When the cares of life confound you,
When the storms of doubt sweep in,
Turn to God with all things in prayer,
And a peace beyond all knowing
Will guard you and guide you.

Whatever is pure, whatever is true,
Whatever is noble and just and good;
Think on these things, live by these things,
Rejoice together in these things,
And the God of peace will be with you.

Scripture Reading - Ephesians 4:1-6

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

Sermon – *One: Unity In Diveristy*

Pastor Howard Pippin

RESPONSE

The people of God respond to the Word

Hymn of Response 561** - *Jesus, United by Thy Grace*

Jesus, united by thy grace
and each to each endeared,
with confidence we seek thy face
and know our prayer is heard.

Help us to help each other, Lord,

each other's cross to bear;
let all their friendly aid afford,
and feel each other's care.

Up unto thee, our living Head,
let us in all things grow;
till thou hast made us free indeed
and spotless here below.

Touched by the lodestone of thy love,
let all our hearts agree,
and ever toward each other move,
and ever move toward thee.

To thee, inseparably joined,
let all our spirits cleave;
O may we all the loving mind
that was in thee receive.

This is the bond of perfectness,
thy spotless charity;
O let us, still we pray, possess
the mind that was in thee.

Discipleship Moment

Offertory - One Faith, One Hope, One Lord - Craig Courtney

One faith, one hope, one Lord, one church for which He died.
One voice, one song we lift in praise to Him Who was and is and shall be evermore.

There is one body, one Spirit, as you were called to one hope.
One Lord, baptism and faith, one God and Father of all, Who is in you all.

One faith, one hope, one Lord, one church for which He died.
One voice, one song we lift in praise to Him Who was and is and shall be evermore.

Though we be many people, diverse with various gifts,
we are given to each other for the unity of faith,
that we grow in the knowledge of the Son of God, in the fullness of Christ.

One faith, one hope, one Lord, one church for which He died.
One voice, one song we lift in praise to Him Who was and is and shall be evermore.
One faith, one hope, one Lord, one God!

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 545** - The Church's One Foundation

The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth;
her charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder
we see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till, with the vision glorious,
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union

with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

Benediction and Response - *Let Us Share God's Love* - Stan Pethel

Postlude - *Fugue in C Major* - J.S. Bach



The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God

in loving memory of Charles and Naomi Putman by Joan Bowles and family.

Service Music: Epworth and Chancel Choirs; Abigail Bontrager, cello; Chad Wagner, trumpet
Music: One License A-731491

NEXT STEPS

Unity in the Body of Christ

I, **therefore**, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to **walk** in a manner **worthy** of the calling to which you have been called, **2** with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, **3** making every effort to **maintain the unity of the Spirit** in the bond of peace: **4** there is **one** body and **one** Spirit, just as you were called to the **one** hope of your calling, **5 one** Lord, **one** faith, **one** baptism, **6 one** God and Father of all, **who is above all and through all and in all.**[a]

Questions for Reflection: Which area do you need to grow in the most: humility, gentleness, or patience? What are some steps you can take to facilitate this growth?

Questions for Discussion: What are some ways our church can practice unity in diversity?

Memory Verse: v.3 "making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Readings for this week: Isaiah 40:21-31; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

CHURCH NOTES

Greeters Needed: Though the weather has been cold, it always warms the heart to see a friendly face greet you on Sunday morning! We need greeters for February 11 and 25. If you are able to greet on one of these Sundays, please call Kim Kerr at 330-606-7736.

Children's Ministries: Evening Children's Activities will begin again this evening. 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.

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.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
JANUARY 28, 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 Beebe	Martha Shoults
Bill & Janet Blank	Karen Taucher
Mark & Cindy Blaser	Ken Tunstall

DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:

James Hurd and family on the death of member, Joan Hurd on 1/18.

Judy Jesson and family on the death of her aunt, Millie Cochran on 1/15.

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