

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
January 31, 2021**

**Gathering**

***God invites us to enter His presence***

**Prelude**

*Swing Low Chariot/Swing Down Chariot Medley  
Words and music are Traditional  
Arrangement by The Vagabonds*

*If The Lord Be Willin' (And The Creek Don't Rise)  
Words and Music by Jack Stern and Arthur Hamilton  
Arranged by SPEBSQSA*

*The Late Entry Quartet  
Tom Walker - Tenor, Gary Covert - Lead,  
Jeff Porter - Baritone, Ben Stephens - Bass*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Preparation for Worship** (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

** Call to Worship**

*Bonnie Mecaughey*

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.  
**For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.**  
God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.  
**Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.**  
Let us worship the Triune God. Amen.

** Invocation**

*Bonnie Mecaughey*

Loving God, we have gathered to meet you.  
We have come to listen to you,  
to seek you, to worship you.  
You are the beginning of all things,  
the life of all things; you knew us before we were born.  
In you we become; in you we live.  
Loving God, you are here and everywhere,  
around us and within us; you know our inmost thoughts.  
In you we hope; in you we live.  
You are the source of serenity,  
giving peace that is beyond our understanding.  
In you we are still; in you we live.  
Loving God, we live in you; we worship you.  
Loving God, you live in us; we worship you. **Amen.**

 **Hymn 560**

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

*For the beauty of the earth, For the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies;*

*For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale and tree and flower, Sun and moon and stars of light:*

*For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child;  
Friends on earth and friends above; For all gentle thoughts and mild:*

*For Thy Church that evermore Lifteth holy hands above,  
Offering up on every shore Her pure sacrifice of love:*

*For Thyself, best gift divine, To our race so freely given;  
For that great, great love of Thine, Peace on earth and joy in heaven:  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.  
Amen.*

**Confessing**

***God invites us to be honest with Him***

**Prayer of Confession**

*Bonnie Mecaughey*

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.  
We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.  
We have not loved you with a pure heart,  
nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves.  
We have not done justice, loved kindness,  
or walked humbly with you, our God.  
Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness.  
In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin.  
**Create in us a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within us.  
Do not cast us from your presence,  
or take your Holy Spirit from us.  
Restore to us the joy of your salvation  
and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

*Bonnie Mecaughey*

This is the message we have heard from God  
and proclaim to you,  
that God is light and in God there is no darkness at all.  
If we walk in the light, as God is in the light,  
we have fellowship with one another,  
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. **Amen.**

Leader: *This is the Promise of the Lord*

All: **Thanks be to God!**

! **Gloria Patri**

*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.  
A-men, A-men.*

**Offering**

***Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him***

**Invitation** Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

**Offering** *\*Please place your offerings in the plate in the back of the church on your way out.*

**Offertory** *It Is Well With My Soul      The Late Entry Quartet*  
*Words and Music by Horatio Spafford and Philip Bliss*  
*Arranged D. Tice*

! **Doxology**

*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. A-men.*

! **Prayer of Dedication**

We are not our own; we belong to you.  
You have created us and given us life anew,  
O God, our Creator, Savior, and Sustainer.  
We extend our arms and open our hands  
to present our offerings to you.  
We make these gestures to display outwardly  
our hearts' overflowing gratitude for all your gifts.  
Receive these gifts from us, O Triune God,  
and through them bring life and hope to many.  
In the name of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**Proclaiming**

***God speaks to us through His Word***

**Prayer of Illumination**

## Scripture Reading

Acts 2:42-47

<sup>42</sup>And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup>And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

## Sermon

*"A Model Church"*  
Rev. Paul Toms

## **Responding** **We respond to God's Word**



### Hymn 354

*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

*What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*Refrain  
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning, Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
O, how bright the path grows from day to day,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.  
Refrain.*

*What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.  
Refrain.*



### Profession of Faith

Leader: Let us now profess our faith along with the saints through the ages.

**People: I believe that the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, who still upholds and rules them by his eternal counsel and providence, is my God and Father because of Christ the Son. I trust God so much that I do not doubt he will provide**

whatever I need for body and soul, and will turn to my good whatever adversity he sends upon me in this sad world. God is able to do this because he is almighty God and desires to do this because he is a faithful Father.

**Commissioning**  
***God sends us out into the world as His witnesses***

**! Hymn 76**

*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

*O for a thousand tongues to sing  
My great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of His grace.*

*Jesus! The name that charms our fears,  
That bids our sorrows cease,  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'Tis life and health and peace.*

*He breaks the power of canceled sin,  
He sets the prisoner free;  
His blood can make the foulest clean;  
His blood availed for me.*

*Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb,  
Your loosened tongues emply;  
Ye blind, behold your Savior come;  
And leap, ye lame, for joy.*

*My gracious Master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread thro' all the earth abroad,  
The honors of thy name.  
A-men.*

**! Benediction & Blessing**

*Irish Blessing  
Traditional*

*The Late Entry Quartet*

**! Organ Postlude**

*Chorale Postlude*

*J.S. Bach*