Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

7th Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 2025

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

God of love, you who created us in love, and for love, fill us with your love.

Fill us to overflowing with love even for those we oppose or dislike.

Fill us with the self-giving love of Christ.

Give us hearts of peace, not war.

God of love, fill us with your love. Amen.

PRELUDE Allegro comodo in B-flat Major

Frank Bridge

BRINGING THE LIGHT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The way of Christ turns the world upside down.

God's ways are not our ways.

It moves us beyond retribution and cycles of violence.

God's ways are not our ways.

It leads us to enemy-love and scandalous forgiveness.

God's ways are not our ways.

It calls us beyond reciprocity into radical giving.

God's ways are not our ways.

So let us commit our way to the Lord together

until our righteousness shines like the dawn and our justice like high noon.

*SONG OF PRAISE

God is Calling Through the Whisper

Hymnal, No. 410

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

O Christ,

the economy of your love is beautiful, expending goodness and extending lines of forgiveness beyond our imagining.
The economy of our love is stingy and crooked.
We invest love where it can be repaid.
We spend mercy where it yields gain.
We advance blessing we can bank on.
We hold grudges with interest.
We do all of this with no recognition of how deeply indebted we are to you.
Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, we pray with our whole hearts.

(Time of silent reflection)

*THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*SONG OF RESPONSE

Glory to God

Hymnal, No. 582

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,

And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,

And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen

World without end, without end. Amen (x3)

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Karen Girdner

SCRIPTURE READING

I Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Page No. 936

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers,

for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.

Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.

He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday.

Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices.

Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it leads only to evil. For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.

Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.

But the meek shall inherit the land, and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; he is their refuge in the time of trouble.

The Lord helps them and rescues them; he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

ANTHEM

Luke 6:27-38 Page No. 838

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE The Heart of the Matter Tracy L. Evans

SONG OF FAITH O God, in a Mysterious Way Hymnal, No. 30

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love. (from the Confession of 1967, 9.15)

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Response:...Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER Hymnal, p. 35

Please pray the Lord's Prayer

in the language and wording most familiar to you.

THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow Hymnal, No. 609

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG Help Us Accept Each Other Hymnal, No. 754

*POSTLUDE Processional of Joy Hal H. Hopson

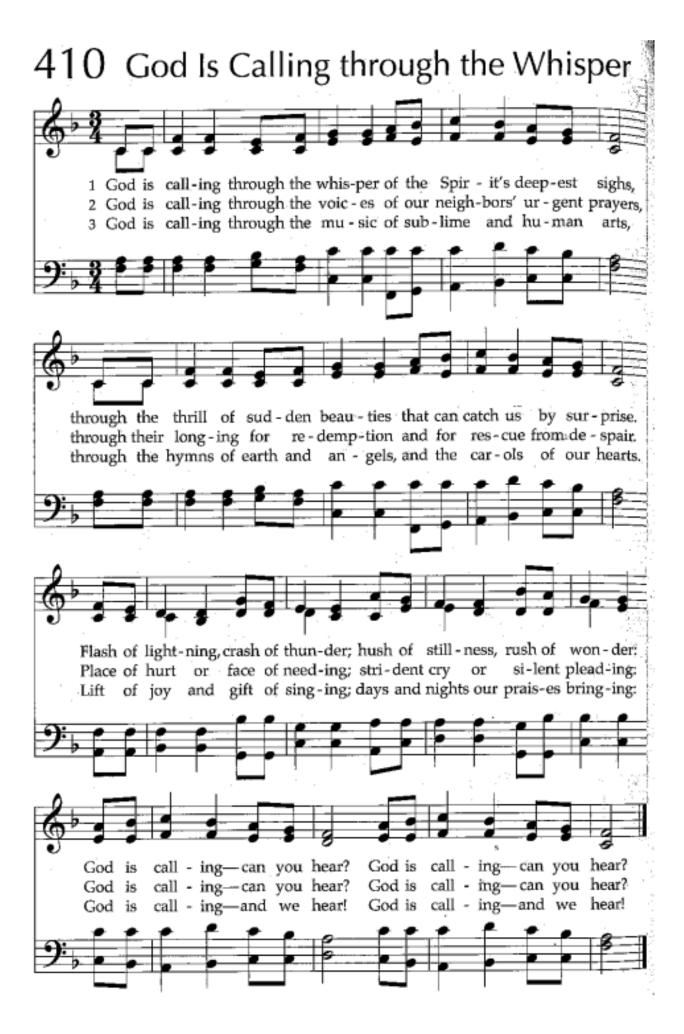
*Please rise in body or spirit.

We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. You may also indicate interest in membership by checking the appropriate column in the ritual of friendship booklet. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

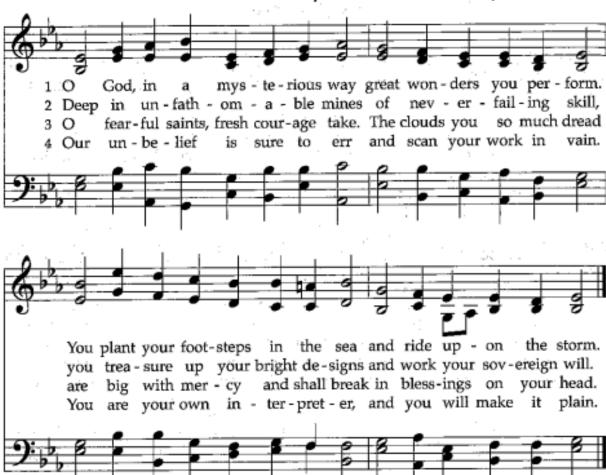
Lectionary Readings for March 2: Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a).

The Food & Shelter items of the month for February are soup and crackers. **Please** place your donations in the box by the church information table.

Hearing-assistance devices and **large print hymnals** are available from the head usher.



30 O God, in a Mysterious Way



Help Us Accept Each Other 754



- 1 Help us ac cept each oth er as Christ ac cept-ed us;
- 2 Teach us, O Lord, your les sons, as in our dai ly life
- 3 Let your ac cep tance change us, so that we may be moved 4 Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,



sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son teach us as to em - brace. strug - gle be hu - man and search for we hope and faith. sit - u - a - tions to liv - ing do the truth in love; who hun - ger for ac - cep-tance, for jus - tice and for bread,



pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring Вe be - lieve us to Teach us care for peo - ple, for not just for some, prac - tice ac - cep-tance un - til your we know by heart need: eyes see - ing, new hands new . for for hold - ing



we are our-selves ac - cept - ed, and meant to love and live. love them we find them, or as as they may be-come. ta for - give-ness, and laugh - ter's heal-ing ble with your Spir - it; Lord, free re - new us us; make us one!