

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

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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

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 6:27-38

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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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

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*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.

410 God Is Calling through the Whisper



1 God is call-ing through the whis-per of the Spir - it's deep-est sighs,
2 God is call-ing through the voic-es of our neigh-bors' ur-gent prayers,
3 God is call-ing through the mu-sic of sub-lime and hu-man arts,



through the thrill of sud-den beau-ties that can catch us by sur-prise.
through their long-ing for re-demp-tion and for res-cue from de-spair.
through the hymns of earth and an-gels, and the car-ols of our hearts.



Flash of light-ning, crash of thun-der; hush of still-ness, rush of won-der:
Place of hurt or face of need-ing; stri-dent cry or si-lent plead-ing:
Lift of joy and gift of sing-ing; days and nights our prais-es bring-ing:



God is call-ing—can you hear? God is call-ing—can you hear?
God is call-ing—can you hear? God is call-ing—can you hear?
God is call-ing—and we hear! God is call-ing—and we hear!



30 O God, in a Mysterious Way



- 1 O God, in a mys - te - rious way great won - ders you per - form.
- 2 Deep in un - fath - om - a - ble mines of nev - er - fail - ing skill,
- 3 O fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take. The clouds you so much dread
- 4 Our un - be - lief is sure to err and scan your work in vain.



You plant your foot - steps in the sea and ride up - on the storm.
you trea - sure up your bright de - signs and work your sov - ereign will.
are big with mer - cy and shall break in bless - ings on your head.
You are your own in - ter - pret - er, and you will make it plain.



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,



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



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



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