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January 21, 2024

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome

Prelude

Love Medley

arr. Marilynn Ham

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 89

Happy are we who hear the joyful call to worship... One:

Many: for we walk in the light of God's presence!

Let's worship God together— One:

Many: Celebrating who God is and all that God has done!

For God is our strength and our protection... One:

Many: the One in whom we trust.

Opening Prayer

Holy God, your faithful love toward us never ends! It is as sure and dependable as the sky over our heads. We praise You! We've gathered together in this place to offer you our worship and our thanksgiving; to declare to any who will listen that You are our God, and we are Your people. May Your Spirit be at work among us as we worship, opening our eyes to the light of Your presence in this place. To You alone, Faithful Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be all glory and honor, now and forever. Amen

Opening Song

What Wondrous Love Is This

#564 VT

Verse 1:

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul? What wondrous love is this, O my soul?

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

Verse 2:

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

Verse 3:

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb I will sing, to God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am, while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing, while millions join the theme, I will sing.

Verse 4:

And when from death I'm free I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through eternity I'll sing on.

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Lord. I Want to Be a Christian

Time with Our Children

Pastoral Prayer

Song

#558 VT

Verse 1:

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Verse 2:

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Verse 3:

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Verse 4:

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Thoughts on Giving

Hebrews 13:15-16 CEV

¹⁵ Our sacrifice is to keep offering praise to God in the name of Jesus. ¹⁶ But don't forget to help others and to share your possessions with them. This too is like offering a sacrifice that pleases God.

Special Music

Why Me Lord

Kris Kristofferson

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LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Lesson

Mark 5:1-20 NRSVUE

5 They came to the other side of the sea, to the region of the Gerasenes. ² And when he had stepped out of the boat,

immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met him. ³ He lived among the tombs, and no one could restrain him anymore, even with a chain, 4 for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces, and no one had the strength to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always howling and bruising himself with stones. ⁶ When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him, ⁷ and he shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." 8 For he had said to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" 9 Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." 10 He begged him earnestly not to send them out of the region. 11 Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding, ¹² and the unclean spirits begged him, "Send us into the swine; let us enter them." ¹³ So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine, and the herd, numbering about two thousand, stampeded down the steep bank into the sea and were drowned in the sea.

¹⁴ The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵ They came to Jesus and saw the man possessed by demons sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the legion, and they became frightened. ¹⁶ Those who had seen what had happened to the man possessed by demons and to the swine reported it. ¹⁷ Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their neighborhood. ¹⁸ As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed by demons begged him that he might be with him. ¹⁹ But Jesus refused and said to him, "Go home to your own people, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and what mercy he has shown you." ²⁰ And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone was amazed.

Verse 1:

Cast out, O Christ, cast far away the demons that destroy: the haunting dreads that choke our souls, the hates that stifle joy.

Verse 2:

Our raging griefs, our jealous fears are Legion in their name. Our shackled hearts implore your grace to loose our binding shame.

Verse 3:

Once long ago, from Galilee, you sailed to storm-tossed shores. And still, in pow'r, you brave new paths to breach our bolted doors.

Verse 4:

Your Word breathes life and health and hope that break through evil's thrall. You send us, strengthened, home in peace to live your gospel call.

Sermon

"Tell Them What the Lord Has Done"

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Song

When Love Is Found

#524 VT

When Love is Found by Brian Wren

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Verse 1:

When love is found and hope comes home, sing and be glad that two are one.
When love explodes and fills the sky, praise God and share our Maker's joy.

Verse 2:

When love has flower'd in trust and care build both each day that love may dare

to reach beyond home's warmth and light, to serve and strive for truth and right.

Verse 3:

When love is tried as loved ones change, hold still to hope though all seems strange, till ease returns and love grows wise through list'ning ears and opened eyes.

Verse 4:

When love is torn and trust betrayed, pray strength to love till torments fade, till lovers keep no score of wrong, but hear through pain love's Easter song.

Verse 5:

Praise God for love, praise God for life, in age or youth, in calm or strife. Lift up your hearts! Let love be fed through death and life in broken bread.

* Benediction

Postlude Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart arr. David Smither

* Please stand as able and led

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|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ministers | All Members |
| Pastor | David Whitten |
| Minister of Music | Vanessa Morton |
| Worship Leader | |
| Children's Time | |
| Special Music | David Whitten |
| Flautist | Sarah Hartman |
| Guitarist | David Whitten |
| Dir. of Media & Tech | Kevin Beers |