

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross,
the sign marked at baptism.

P: In the baptismal water we have traveled with Christ
from death to life.

All: Our past, our brokenness, our mistakes, our despair
are drowned and gone here.

P: Our fears, our confusion, our self-righteousness, our
discouragement are washed away by grace and hope.

All: Our pride, our pretense, and other people's opinions
of us no longer define us.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: The Spirit lives and moves through us now, a great and
joyful mystery, so that we may receive – and bring –
God's love and mercy into the world as the body of
Christ.

All: We rejoice that God has claimed us as beloved in this
baptismal grace, not by our own doing or believing
but by God's mercy and gift of grace alone.

P: As we begin worship we give thanks to God for the
gracious gift of baptism that joins us together in Christ
by the Spirit's power. And all God's people said:

All: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: From our busy lives, God calls us together to worship
and to pray.

All: We are here, Holy One!

L: From different places, Christ calls us to gather, to love,
and to live.

All: We are here, blessed Jesus!

L: From unexpected journeys, the Spirit calls us into unity
to serve and to grow.

All: We are here, Holy Spirit! Come! Let us worship.

OPENING HYMN . . . "Lift Every Voice and Sing" vs. 1, 3

Text: James W. Johnson - Tune: J. Rosamond Johnson - Cranberry Book #841

Favorite Hymn of Karen Narveson

1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,
ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,
thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,
let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea,
keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;
sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;
fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,
let us march on till vic - to - ry is won,
true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

GREETING

P: God, we gather as people who are tired from our labors. We work hard and sometimes wonder why. We toil in the fields and are surprised that a bigger crop is not yielded. As we begin our day of Sabbath rest, we pray that you would help us to find rest for our weary bodies and renewal for our tired minds.

All: Come alongside of us, God, and grant us your peace. Amen.

A LABOR LITANY

L: For all who have work to do that creates and sustains life,

All: We give God thanks.

L: For teachers and students, for doctors and nurses,

All: We give God thanks.

L: For farmers and cooks, for waitresses and caregivers,

All: We give God thanks.

L: For assistants and administrators, for counters and librarians,

All: We give God thanks.

L: For manufacturers and laborers, for salespersons and temp workers,

All: We give God thanks.

L: For writers and artists, for musicians and performers,

All: We give God thanks.

L: For engineers and pilots, for bus drivers and truckers,

All: We give God thanks.

L: For volunteers and mentors, for leaders and followers,

All: We give God thanks.

L: For those who are unemployed,

All: We ask for jobs.

L: For those who are underemployed,

All: We ask for work that satisfies.

L: For those who work in oppressive systems,

All: We ask relief.

L: For those whose work is demeaning,

All: We ask for respect.

L: Where you need us, O God, to make work available, or joyful, or respectful, or fair,

All: Direct us in your ways.

L: Guide the leaders of our communities to make work a reasonable part of our lives,

All: Direct us in your ways.

L: When it is time, O God, to rest as you did after creation, in safety and honor,

All: Direct us in your ways.

L: For this opportunity to hold up our work in your presence, Holy God,

All: We give you thanks and praise.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Creating God, Giver of life and love, open our hearts to your loving call,

All: that we may hear your voice and rise to follow you.

L: We give you thanks for the gift of life,

All: and pledge to live this gift with love and gratitude.

L: Guide us, Holy One, to respond to those in need: the widows and the orphans,

All: the tired and the weary, the lost and the lonely.

L: We pray in the name of Christ,

All: who taught us how to love. Amen.

Be Seated

The Story that Shapes and Forms Us

READING . . . *James 1:17-27*

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here, Christians

are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

L: Word of God, word of life.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark the seventh chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL . . . Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes

asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

P: The Gospel, the good news of God

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Be Seated

CHILDREN’S TIME . . . Pastor Tim



Please Stand

HYMN . . . “He Lives” vs. 1, 3

Text & Tune: A. H. Ackley
Favorite Hymn of Meg Ehmann

Be Seated

HOMILY . . . Pastor Tim

A Story that Feeds Us

INVITATION TO OFFERING

L: To place God at the center of our lives,

All: let us offer a portion of our gifts back to God, as we bring forth the fruits of our labor.

THANKFUL OFFERING



Please Stand

OFFERTORY RESPONSE . . . “Accept, O Lord the Gifts We Bring”



1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: God of mercy, we bring these gifts to you in thankfulness for all that you have done for us.

All: May our gratitude turn into acts of mercy and justice, and may these gifts help our neighbors both near and far. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

L: Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's beloved creation. Gracious God, we pray for all those who labor to bear your word into the world by welcoming the stranger, healing the sick, and caring for the orphan. Embolden your church to take up the cross against the powers of oppression and death. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Creative God, we pray for the earth. Keep watch over those who rescue endangered species and repair scorched landscapes. Make us good stewards of creation. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Loving God, you call us to serve our neighbors. Bless our vocations as we fill the cups of the thirsty, the plates of the hungry, and the hearts of the lonely. Make our presence your presence for all who sorrow. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Welcoming God, at tables around the world, through story and meal, strangers become guests and guests become friends. Embolden this congregation to always extend the wide-armed welcome you extend to us. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: God of all, hear now the prayers of our heart said either silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

All: Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

L: God is with you.

All: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: *With boundless joy, we give thanks to you, O God of our Creation. From that first spark of life and Spirit: you set the cosmos in motion, you breathed life into humanity, you brought light into the world.*

All: **Your love amazes us, for even when our love turns to doubt or fear, your love is constant and sure.**

P: *You delivered our ancestors in faith from captivity, and you deliver us daily from the bonds that prevent us from living as people created in your image.*

All: **You freed your people and made a covenant to be present always.**

P: *You have spoken to us through prophets and you speak truth to us through one another. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn, singing:*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho-
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: *Nurturing God, your greatest gift to us is the grace we know through Jesus Christ.*

All: **Your Spirit descended on him and was manifest in his ministry.**

P: *Through his teachings and example, you showed us how to be with the poor, how to release those heavy laden from burdens, how to free the souls of the weary and anxious, and how to proclaim the good news of grace and peace and abundant love.*

All: **In an act of unimaginable love, you delivered us from hopelessness, and made a new covenant with us through water and the Spirit.**

P: *When Jesus died and rose again into eternity, he promised to abide with us in your Word and Holy Spirit. On the night in which he surrendered himself, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to the disciples, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body which is*

given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” When the meal had ended, Jesus took the cup, offered thanks, and gave it to the disciples, saying: “Drink from this, all of you; this cup of renewed covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink, in remembrance of me.” And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ for all the world.

All: To You, O Creator of love and life, through Christ Jesus who makes all life new, in communion with your Holy Spirit who breathes new life into all, we honor and praise you for your everlasting love.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

P: As you are one with us, O Christ, make us one with you as we pray as you taught...

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

FRACTION RITE

P: Everyone who hungers, come to the table.

All: We will eat what is good, that we may live.

Be Seated

The ushers will invite you to the Lord’s Table after the Lamb of God is sung.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Holy Communion is open to all.

Grape juice is white, wine is red.

Let an usher know if you desire communion brought to you.



COMMUNION HYMN . . . “Here I Am, Lord”

Text & Tune: Daniel L. Schutte - Cranberry Book #574
 Favorite Hymn of Cody Mayer, Michael DiPaola, Joanie Schuller



1 “I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 “I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple’s pain.
 3 “I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.



Here I am, send me!

COMMUNION HYMN . . . “This Little Light of Mine”

Text & Tune: African American spiritual – Cranberry Book #677
 Favorite Hymn of Kathy & Marielle Miedema



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I’m goin’ - a let it shine;
 2 Ev - ’ry - where I go, I’m goin’ - a let it shine;
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I’m goin’ - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I’m goin’ - a let it shine;
 ev - ’ry - where I go, I’m goin’ - a let it shine;
 Je - sus gave it to me, I’m goin’ - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I’m goin’ - a let it shine,
 ev - ’ry - where I go, I’m goin’ - a let it shine,
 Je - sus gave it to me, I’m goin’ - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Singing Bowl

Please Stand

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: Creator God, bless this gift of bread with the yeast of your love.

All: Flow through this gift of wine with your life-giving grace.

P: As we receive these gifts, make us one with you through the power of your Holy Spirit.

All: Nurture our lives, that we may be loaves of your generous abundance.

P: Pour your grace into our hearts, that we may be vines of loving nourishment for one another and for a world in need of growth and strength.

All: In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Loving God, in this meal you sustain the weary and heal the broken.

All: **May the gift of your word made flesh, the body and blood of Christ, inspire our tongues to praise you and proclaim to the entire world the Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Be Seated

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Stand

A Story that Sends Us Out to Love and Serve

COMMISSIONING

P: With hearts renewed and spirits filled to overflowing with the love of God, our Creator, go from this place to follow Jesus, who taught us how to love.

All: We will listen for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

P: Hear the word, do the word, and live the word.

All: We go in peace. Amen.

Those who desire extra time to exit are invited to do so during the last hymn.



SENDING OUT. . . "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory" vs. 1, 3

Text: Julia Ward Howe - Tune: North American - Cranberry Book #890

Favorite Hymn of Ellen Di Paola

1 Mine eyes have seen the glo - ry of the com - ing of the Lord;
3 In the beau - ty of the lil - ies Christ was born a - cross the sea,
he is tram - pling out the vin - tage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
with a glo - ry in his bos - om that trans - fig - ures you and me.
he has loosed the fate - ful light - ning of his ter - ri - ble swift sword:
As he died to make men ho - ly, let us live to make men free,
his truth is march - ing on.
while God is march - ing on.
Refrain
Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah!
Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! His truth is march - ing on.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve God.

All: Thanks be to God!

