



Worship Moment

First Sunday after Epiphany

Fairlawn-West
United Church of Christ
January 10, 2021

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Almighty God you provide us with the hope that we long for, that we so desperately need. For that we give you thanks. We ask that you give us patience as our hope for this pandemic may come to a close. We ask that you be with the people that are struggling in so many ways due to this disease. God in this time of divide in this great nation please bring us together. And let us not forget to thank you for all you have blessed us with. Our struggles have made us stronger, our joys have made us richer, your love has given us life. May we continue to share with each other the love that you unconditionally give to us. Amen.

Song of Spiritual Devotion: Cry of My Heart

Scripture: Mark 1.4-11 (CEB)

Scripture Reflection: “How Do We Have Defining Moments”
John Gossett, Associate for Pastoral Care

Song of Spiritual Purpose: God Sends Us Forth

Holy Communion

Please use what you have available. The important thing is that we celebrate and remember together.

God of Love and Peace, we are always searching for better ways to serve you. We know you will not call us to more than we can handle. We thank you for giving us the minds and the creativity to be able to make this world a better place. Thank you for entrusting us to care and love our neighbors and this world. Let us continue to trust Your wisdom, and to be intentional when You speak. We also ask that You continue to be with us in our struggles, and in our pain. We ask you to continue to guide us and to give us patience to keep peaceful hearts.

We also ask for strength for our first responders as they continue their tireless efforts to fight this pandemic. And, we ask for a guiding hand for our leaders. May we share with our community the gifts you have so graciously given to us. Amen.

Commission

Go forth into the world and be of good courage.
Hold fast to that which is good, render to no person evil for evil,
strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the afflicted, honor all people.
Love and serve God rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Benediction

Let us go with caring awareness for the world and all that is in it.
In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Invitations

***Bible Study:** We'd love to have you join us as we begin new studies in both our Tuesday and Wednesday sessions. Find the Zoom links on our website or in the email newsletter.

***Pray:** Please include our preschool in your prayers as teachers and students return this Monday, January 11, from Christmas break. A regularly updated prayer list is available in our email newsletter. Your prayers are a vitally important act of Christian love for those in need of God's blessing.

Cry of My Heart

Terry Butler

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Chorus:

It is the cry of my heart to follow You
It is the cry of my heart to be close to You
It is the cry of my heart to follow
All of the days of my life

Teach me Your holy ways, O Lord
So I can walk in Your truth
Teach me Your holy ways, O Lord
And make me wholly devoted to You

Chorus

Open my eyes so I can see
The wonderful things that You do
Open my heart up more and more
And make me wholly devoted to You

Chorus

All of the days of my life
All of the days of my life

Scripture: Mark 1.4-11 (CEB)

4 John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. **5** Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. **6** John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. **7** He announced, "One stronger than I am is coming after me. I'm not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals.

8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

9 About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. **10** While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. **11** And there was a voice from heaven:

"You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

God Sends Us Forth

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God sends us forth – to love and serve
Make known God's name – and live God's word

Mirror God's love, reflect God's grace
Till all have seen the Savior's face

Nourished by Christ, our Word and Bread
Burning with love and Spirit led
Sent to embrace a world in need
To make God known in word and deed

Called to the ones the world ignores
Hungry and thirsty, weak and poor
Let us bear Christ who heals all pain
And comforts those with guilt or shame

So with God's love to lead the way
Let us go forth in peace today
And to the ends of earth make known
The saving love our God has shown