

First Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

January 17, 2021

Second Sunday after Epiphany

ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP

Sometimes we are hesitant and skeptical about outsiders. Nathanael is told, "We have found him." But Nathanael isn't so sure to trust blindly, and says, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth." It isn't easy to meet someone where they are, or accept where they are coming from. It is such a great notion, but not always a simple endeavor. We are not always accepting of where other people live. Not physically, but where people live ideologically, culturally, politically, emotionally, theologically, and socially. Perhaps, also, physically. As children of God, how can we come to see our neighbors and our enemies for who they really are? And, how can we treat each other and ourselves for who God intends us to be?

Gathered As God's People

Prelude in C Major, BWV 531a

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship Paula Thomas

The one who calls us, yearns for us to be clothed in a new self, created in the likeness of God. O Lord, You search us and know us.

The one who comes bringing forgiveness, also has a winnowing fork in hand, holding our sins to the wind.

O God, we praise You, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

Blessed is the One who calls us to follow truth, act with humility and seek the heart of God. Come and see, the good news of Christ!

Opening Hymn #432 How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

C. Hubert H. Parry

How clear is our vocation, Lord,
when once we heed your call
to live according to your word
and daily learn, refreshed, restored,
that you are Lord of all
and will not let us fall.

We marvel how your saints became in hindrances more sure: whose joyful virtues put to shame the casual way we wear your name, and by our faults obscure your power to cleanse and cure.

But if, forgetful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear; if worldly pressures fray the mind and love itself cannot unwind its tangled skein of care: our inward life repair.

In what you give us, Lord, to do, together or alone, in old routines or ventures new, may we not cease to look to you: the cross you hung upon, all you endeavored, done.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God,

Your mercy is deeper and wider than our own understanding. Your knowledge of us is our continuous care and sustained life. We confess our indifference to Your will and Your word. So often we 'come and see' only what we can expect to accept. We have troubled the water of Your claim on our life together. We have failed our nation, neighbors, families, friends and ourselves. Fashion in us hearts of Your wisdom. Lead us to honesty and faith to begin again, and to renew our courage to truly follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and our Peace. (Silent prayer)

Assurance

The Peace of Christ be with You.

And also with you.

Proclaiming God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 139: 1-6, 14-18

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Interlude Andante religioso from Op. 65 No. 4

Feliz Mendelssohn

Scripture Lesson John 1:43-51

Sermon God Searches Rev. Len Carrell

Responding To God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith (The Apostle's Creed)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the
Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was
crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day
he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth
on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he
shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion
of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Anthem

Adagio e mesto from Organ Sonata in D

C.P.E. Bach

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art; thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise; thou, mine inheritance, now and always; thou and thou only, first in my heart,

High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

High King of Heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Benediction

Postlude

Fugue in C Major, BWV 531b

J.S. Bach

The church office will be closed on Monday, January 18 in observance of the Martin Luther King holiday.

Congregational Meeting

January 24, 2021 The purpose of this called meeting is to elect 2021 all Church Nominating Committee: Sue Brinkley, James Fleming, Megan Hill, Tonjia Potts (chair, elder), Jim Ross (elder), Sharon Shaw (deacon) and James Sloan. This vote will take place by email through Survey Monkey.



O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works;

that I know very well.

My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.
How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
I try to count them-they are more than the sand;
I come to the end—I am still with you.



The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite

in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

We continue to pray for all of you, and are keeping you lifted in grace and love during this time. As always, we want to be a pastoral presence in your life. If there is anything we can do for you, we would like to know, if there are ways we can pray for you, or if someone you know needs the prayers of the church, please reach out to us.

Care List

The Care list is a list of members and friends who are sick,

bereaved, or celebrating a happy occasion. After reading their names, you may want to write a short message to someone on the list.

Our Sympathy...

To the Fleming and Franks family in the death of their son and brother William "Bill" Stuart Fleming.

To Janice English in the death of her brother Gregory Gilbert English Sr.

Our Prayers...

Greg Baxter, Barbara Butler (sister of Mary McClanahan), Lynn Carroll (father of Margaret Piper), Ben Chiles (son of John and Sue Chiles), Sue Chiles, Joe Graham III, Will Green, Waymon Hickman, Cathy Krenz (sister of Mary McClanahan), Tom Lewis, Martha Matthews, Steve and Gary Rampley (brothers of Betty Sloan), Richard and Debbie Welch (our missionaries in Guatemala), Cindy West (sister-in-law of Jennie Grace Jewell).

On-Line Sunday School

Chapel Class Sundays at 9:30 AM-Virtually

Fellowship Class Sundays at 9:00 AM-Virtually

Ministers of the Church

Ruling Elders

<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
Jack Baxter	Dorothy Duncan
Gloria Dale	Dan Garman
Martha Jones	Michael McAlister
Lee Maddox	Jim Ross
Julia West	Dawn Taylor
	Jack Baxter Gloria Dale Martha Jones Lee Maddox

Board of Deacons

<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
Julie Crichton	Erin Hedrick	Janice English
Joe Graham III	Raven Martin	Houston Jameson
Jenny Johns	Kristi Martin	Zack Maddux
Janet McAlister	Alan Phillips	Sharon Shaw
Larry Nickell	Jenny Sloan	

<u>Staff</u>

Susie Baxter, Director of Christian Education; Rev. Len Carrell, Pastor; Renea Foster, Administrative Assistant; Carroll Kilgore, Business Administrator; James Marshall, Sexton; Dale Nickell, Director of Music Ministry