



Our mission:
to nurture disciples of Jesus Christ
who join boldly with the Spirit's
work in the world.

A Service for the Lord's Day
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 30, 2022

10:30 a.m.

We enter this sanctuary not as strangers, but as children of God.

*Please join in reading aloud those parts of the service printed in **bold**.
When this symbol (*) precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.*

Please wear face masks throughout the service.

We Gather at God's Call

Water Pouring

Prelude

Greeting

*Call to Worship Nancy Davis, Worship Leader

God built the heavens, the earth, and everything in them.

God calls us to be builders, as well.

God calls us to build our lives;

to restore broken places and continue to grow.

God calls us to build our faith:

to study the Word and ponder its interpretation.

God calls us to build our community:

to build bridges of understanding and systems of justice.

God calls us to build history by fulfilling the promises of Scripture:

to preach the Good News of God's love and liberation for all people.

*Hymn 620

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

***Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praised sing:***

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.

*Praise him for his grace and favor
to his people in distress;
praise him still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in his faithfulness.*

*Father-like, he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet his mercy flows.*

*Angels, help us to adore him;
you behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.*

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

**God of our Restoration,
whenever we come home to you,
we realize how far we have strayed
and how much we have forgotten
of your law and your love.**

**We have not loved you with our whole hearts
or loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**Forgive us, heal us,
and restore us to our relationship with you;
through Jesus Christ, in whom we trust. Amen.**

*Assurance of Forgiveness (responsively)

God's word does not come to condemn us,

**but to make us wise,
reviving our souls and rejoicing our hearts.**

Do not mourn, therefore, but rejoice,
for this is a new day for you and for me.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

*Response Let Us Build a House 301 (v. 2)

*Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.*

We Gather Around God's Word

Time with the Children

*Afterward, children may return to their seats in the sanctuary
or go to Godly Play in the Fellowship Hall.*

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 8:1-10

Sermon

Pastor Keith Phillips

*Live into hope of liberty,
the right to speak, the right to be,
the right to have one's daily bread,
To hear God's word and thus be fed.*

*Affirmation of Faith

**The Bible is to be interpreted in the light of its witness
to God's work of reconciliation in Christ.**

**The Scriptures, given under the guidance of the Holy Spirit,
are nevertheless words of human beings,
conditioned by the language,
thought forms,
and literary fashions of the places and times
at which they were written.**

**They reflect views of life, history,
and the cosmos which were then current.**

**The church, therefore,
has an obligation to approach the Scriptures
with literary and historical understanding.**

**As God has spoken the divine word in diverse cultural situations,
the church is confident
that God will continue to speak through the Scriptures
in a changing world
and in every form of human culture.**

The Confession of 1967 (9.29)

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

*Live into hope of captives freed
from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
to faith and hope and joy and peace.*

We Respond to God's Word

Invitation to the Offering

Special Music

Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand
Nancy Davis, Hunter Davis and Doug Sensabaugh

Concerns of the Congregation

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

We Are Sent to the World

*Hymn

Live into Hope (vv. 1-3)

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*Live into hope of captives freed,
of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
the year of God's own jubilee!*

*Live into hope! The blind shall see
with insight and with clarity,
removing shades of pride and fear,
a vision of our God brought near.*