

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

Order of Worship

16 January 2022

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Prayer of Preparation

O God of celebration, you have kept the good wine until now – the wine that we have longed for, but never thought to taste. Take the tap water of our lives – our struggles and our dullness – and with your grace make strong and dark and joyful all that our hearts contain, thought Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Welcome

The chiming of the Trinity

Introit

O How He Loves You and Me

Kaiser

Call to Worship

Anthem

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

Thompson

Confession

Loving Lord, we long to be your faithful people, but our good intentions run out and we come up empty. For all the ways we fall short in our sin, forgive us, Gracious One. Change us - like water into wine - to become what the world lacks, that our community, our nation, our church, and all creation may know your justice and love.

We pause for a time of silent confession

In your name, we pray. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Summary of the Law

Matthew 22:37-39

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and the first commandment. And a second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Prayer for Illumination

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight

Affirmation of Faith

from a Declaration of Faith (PC USA, 1991)

The Spirit enables people to become believers. The Spirit enabled people of all races, classes, and nations to accept the good news of what God had done in Christ, repent of their sins, and enter the community of faith. We testify that today this same Holy Spirit makes us able to respond in faith to the gospel and leads us into the Christian community. The Spirit brings us out of death into life, out of separation into fellowship. The Spirit makes us aware of our sinfulness and need, moves us to abandon our old way of life, persuades us to trust in Christ and adopt his way. In all these things we are responsible for our decisions. But after we have trusted and repented we recognize that the Spirit enables us to hear and act. It is not our faith but God's grace in Jesus Christ that justifies us and reconciles us to God. Yet it is only by faith that we accept God's grace and live by it.

Hymn 39

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Chisholm/Runyan

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

**Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (Refrain)**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (Refrain)**

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Pianist: Cindy Sutton

Soloists: Tommy Hall, Susan Mabie

The opening prayer is from *All Desires Known*, by Janet Morley (New York: Morehouse Publishing), 2006.

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