

**Anthem**            *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*            spiritual

**Joys and Concerns of the Congregation**

**Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**            *We Three Kings*            Peter Jancewicz

**If you have not already done so, please place your offering in the marked basket nearest the exit you use. We look forward to seeing you again next week.**

A special thank you to our ushers!

Pianist: Cindy Sutton

Ensemble: Beth Foley, Tommy Hall, Sue Jones, Susan Mabie

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*"Sermon on the Mount," Laura James, 2010, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN*

17 January 2021

2nd Sunday After Epiphany

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

*Trusting that God's grace embraces and makes covenant with all believers, First Presbyterian Church intends to be an inclusive place of spiritual growth for all people. All persons are welcomed into this fellowship and membership regardless of age, sexual orientation, gender, ethnic or racial identity, economic or educational status, or political affiliation.*

# Order of Worship

## Prayer of Preparation

*As I rise this day, O God, I give you thanks for breath and life, for the people I will see today, for family, neighbors, and friends, and for those whose ways are challenging to my serenity. Help me to give thanks especially for the people who pull me to new understandings and show me sides of life that I have not known or do not welcome. Urge me to follow you today; in Jesus' name. Amen.*

## Welcome

## Chiming of the Trinity

**Prelude** *Peace Returns* Ed Kerr

**\*Call to Worship** Psalm 119:33-41

Lord, teach me what your statutes are about,  
and I will guard every part of them.

**Help me understand so I can guard your Instruction  
and keep it with all my heart.**

Lead me on the trail of your commandments  
because that is what I want.

**Turn my heart to your laws,  
not to greedy gain.**

Turn my eyes away from looking at worthless things.  
Make me live by your way.

**Confirm your promise to your servant—  
the promise that is for all those who honor you.**

Remove the insults that I dread because your rules are good.

**Look how I desire your precepts!**

**Make me live by your righteousness.**

**Lord, let your faithful love come to me—**

**let your salvation come to me according to your promise.**

**Anthem** *Soon and Very Soon* Andraé Crouch

## Confession

**Holy God, you see into each of us and know us fully as creatures in need of your constant care. We confess that we have neither heard your word nor followed your will. We have failed our nation, neighbors, families, friends, and ourselves. Give us ears to hear your wisdom. Lead us to honesty and faith so that we may begin again with renewed strength; in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*Silent Confession*

## Assurance of Pardon

## Summary of the Law

**“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.’”** Matthew 22:37-39

## Prayer of Illumination

**Lesson** Matthew 5:43-48

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

**Sermon** *Loving Your Enemies: A Historic Sermon for a New Day*  
The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

**\*Affirmation of Faith** A Declaration of Faith Ch 9(4)

Christ calls us to live for our neighbors.

**Jesus broadened the definition of neighbor to include those ordinarily despised and excluded. His life in behalf of others led to persecution and death. He commanded his disciples to live the same way. We believe Christ gives us and demands of us lives that recognize all people in all cultures as our neighbors on this planet. Christ teaches us to go beyond legal requirements in serving and helping our neighbor, to treat our neighbor's needs as our own, to care passionately for the other's good, to share what we have. It is part of our discipline to live in simplicity, avoiding greed and luxury that threaten our neighbor's survival. We are obligated to speak the truth in love, to listen with patience and openness, to love our enemies, to accept the risk and pain which love involves.**