# First Presbyterian Church of Springfield Order of Worship for the Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

January 31, 2021 at 11:15 a.m.

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson Organist: Mike Belote Worship Leader: Linda Thomas

#### Welcome

We Approach God

## Call to Worship

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed it are those who hunger for justice, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who gather to hear God's word, for they will be nurtured and sustained.

#### **Prayer of the Day**

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Hymn of Praise** "Let Us with a Gladsome Mind" *Presbyterian Hymnal* 244

Let us with a gladsome mind praise the Lord who is so kind: for God's mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

God with all-commanding might filled the new-made world with light: for God's mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

All things living God does feed, with full measure meets their need: for God's mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

Let us with a gladsome mind praise the Lord who is so kind: for God's mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

#### **Call to Confession**

Nothing can be hidden from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth, whose wisdom is endless, whose mercy is great. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

#### **Prayer of Confession**

Surprising God, you have made foolish the wisdom of the world, teaching that the meek shall inherit the earth and heaven belongs to those who suffer for righteousness. Sometimes we cling to our culture's values, things that enhance our status but cheat our souls. We seek comfort in simple answers and easy outs. We disregard the marginalized and mock weakness, forgetting that Christ lifted up the lowly and made his home among the vulnerable. God of blessing, reorient our hearts and renew our minds by your Spirit so that we may practice kindness and walk humbly with you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

#### **Assurance of Pardon**

Those who trust in the Lord will renew their strength. They will mount up with wings like eagles.' They will run and not be weary; they will walk and not grow faint. Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God.** 

God Speaks to Us Through God's Word

#### **Prayer for Illumination**

Holy God, giver of all light, lift up our hearts and minds to Christ, the morning star that never fades. By the light of your Holy Spirit, reveal to us your saving Word and lead us to offer our lives to you in service and in love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

**Old Testament** 

Deuteronomy 18:15 - 22

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

**Moment with Young Disciples** 

**New Testament** 

Mark 1:21 - 28

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Surprising Encounters"

The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson

We Respond to God's Word

**Affirmation of Faith** 

Adapted from *The Confession of 1967*, 9.15

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.

Hymn

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

Presbyterian Hymnal 306

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature, O thou of God to earth come down, Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor, Thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of spring: Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling, starry host: Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer, than all the angels heaven can boast.

#### Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

# **Invitation to the Offering**

There is only one God, from whom all things come and for whom we live. In gratitude and faith, let us offer our lives and gifts to the Lord.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

O Lord our Savior, we praise you for your constant care. You have claimed us as your own, so we belong as part of your people. Thank you for drawing us to this congregation to share in worship and study, friendship and service with others who love you. Let our lives be useful for your purposes. We give these tithes and offerings as a sign of the joy you give us, to share with the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

#### God Sends Us into the World

Hymn of Dedication "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun" Presbyterian Hymnal 423

Jesus shall reign where're the sun does its successive journeys run, his kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown his head; his name, like sweet perfume, shall rise with every morning sacrifice.

Blessings abound wherever he reigns: the prisoners leap to lose their chains, the weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blessed.

## **Invitation to Discipleship and Benediction**

Dr. Anderson