

Pastoral Joys and Concerns of the Church

Prayer for the People and Lord's Prayer Choral Amen

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.

Call to Stewardship

All undesignated cash goes to the Compassion Fund.

Offertory arr. Robert J. Powell
"Meditation on *Houston*"

*Congregational Response Hymn 606 *Old Hundredth*
Doxology

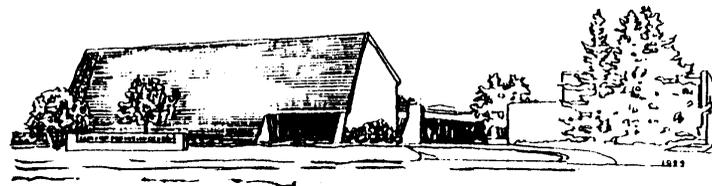
**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Offertory Prayer

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

*Hymn 662 *Ratisbon*
"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

***Please be seated as we begin the
GFPC Annual Congregational Meeting.***



Today's Liturgy has been adapted from: Feasting on the Word
Worship Companion, Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 and Sanctified Art
Cover art: *Dark to Light* by Lourry Legarde



*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light; those who
lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.*

Isaiah 9:2

 **Grace First**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working

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The Reverend Ashley Drake Mertz, Pastor
The Reverend David A. Slyter, Associate Pastor
Marialice Parish, M.M., Organist and Director of Music

THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

January 26, 2020

10:40 A.M.

Third Sunday after Epiphany

**The congregation is invited to stand as music begins.
Additional worshipers may enter as the congregation sings.*

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to worship at Grace First Presbyterian Church! As we light the Christ Candle, we are reminded that Jesus is the light of the world. As we pour the Baptismal Waters in the Font, we recall our baptism and newness of life. As we bring in the Bible, we remember the centrality of the Word. We worship our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. ***(Please sign the attendance register, pass it down the pew, and then back so everyone can greet those worshipping near you.)***

Gathering Around the Word

Opening Voluntary Robert Lau
"Prelude on *Nettleton*"

Entrance of Baptismal Water, the Christ Light,
and the Bible

Call to Worship (Responsive) Jeff Kahlden
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined!
Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Invocation

*Hymn 14 Dix
"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Almighty God, we confess that we have not been faithful to you in our thoughts and actions. We have been selfish in our desires and quarrelsome in our relationships. We have allowed fear to divide us from those who seem different, and let distrust separate us from our brothers and sisters. Shine your light into our darkened hearts. Save us from our divisive ways. Unite us in the same mind as Jesus Christ who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit in perfect harmony...

Silent Confession...

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Congregational Response Hymn 442 v.4 Woodworth
**Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!**

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Music Ministry "Thank the Lord" Folk Tune
Sanctuary Choir arr. Rene Clausen

Thank the Lord and sing his praise.
Tell everyone what He has done.
Let everyone who loves the Lord
rejoice and gladly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads his people
forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Children's Moment The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz
(Following the Children's Moment, the children will be excused to attend Children's Worship. Following the service, parents may pick their child up in room 6.)

First Reading Isaiah 9:1-4
Pew Bible: Page 638

The Word of God for the People of God
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading Matthew 2:13-23
Pew Bible: Page 2

The Word of God for the People of God
Thanks be to God.

Reflections from the Border Trip:
Joe Barnhart, Judy Rawlins, & Randy Riall

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 366 Hyfrydol
"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

*Affirmation of Faith (Unison) The Apostles' 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.