A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
The Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

February 12, 2023   8:30 and 11:00 am
*All who are able may stand.
Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING. . .

The Prelude
The Lord is My Shepherd
Allen Pote
The Jubilate Ringers

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit
O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

The Call To Worship

Happy are those who walk in the law of the Lord.
Happy are those who seek God with their whole heart.
O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping God's statutes!
Let us praise God with an upright heart!

The Prayer of Adoration

Holy God, your laws and commandments are full of righteousness. We praise you for calling us to be your faithful people and teaching us your ways. Great are your precepts, O God, that bring us to fullness of life and make us accountable before you and one another! All thanks and praise to you, Great God, for your glory fills the earth. Amen.

* The Hymn 49
The God of Abraham Praise

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above, the ancient of Eternal Days, The God of love!
The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven confessed, we bow before Your holy name, Forever blest.
Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will. In prophet's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
Established is Your law, and changeless it shall stand, deep writ upon the human heart, by your strong hand.
Your goodly land we seek, with peace and plenty blest, a land of sacred liberty and Sabbath rest.
There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound, and trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.
We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name; the first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

The Prayer of Confession

Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. Have mercy upon us, O Lord. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises. Help us to live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your name. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! This saying is sure and worthy of acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.
Christ came that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

The Decalogue

*The Gloria Patri
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: World without end. Amen

*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. And also with you!
(Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ. For those worshiping at home, please share Christ's peace with someone outside Your home this week.)
Welcome of New Members (11am service)  *Howard “Ward” and Suzanne Bailey*

*Congregational response*

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into this community of faith. Grateful for the gifts you bring, we offer our prayers and support as we journey in faith together.

**HEARING THE WORD OF GOD. . .**

*The Prayer for Illumination*

*The Old Testament Lesson: Deuteronomy 30:15-20*

*The Psalter Lesson: Psalm 119:1-8*

**The Anthem**  
*Lord of the Small*  
Johanna Anderson/Dan Forrest

Praise to the Lord of the small, broken things, Who see the poor sparrow that cannot take wing.  
Who loves the lame child, and the wretch in the street,  
Who comforts their sorrows and washes their feet.

Praise to the Lord of the faint and afraid, Who girds them with courage and lends them His aid;  
He pours out His Spirit on vessels so weak that the timid can serve and the silent can speak.

Praise to the Lord of the frail and the ill, Who heals their afflictions, or carries them till  
They leave this tired frame and to paradise fly, To never be sick and never to die.

Praise Him, O praise Him, all you who yet live, Who’ve been given so much and can so little give,  
Our frail, lisping praise God will never despise:  
He sees His dear children through mercy-filled eyes.

*The Epistle Lesson: I Corinthians 3:1-9*

**A Moment With the Children**

*The Hymn 316*  
*Where Charity and Love Prevail*  

Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found; brought here together by Christ’s love, by love we thus are bound.

Let us recall that in our midst dwells Christ, God’s holy Son. As members of each body joined, in him we are made one.

Let strife among us be unknown; let all contentions cease. Be God’s the glory that we seek; be his our only peace.

Let us forgive each other’s faults as we our own confess, that we may love each other well in Christian gentleness.

Love can exclude no race or creed if honored be God’s name; our common life embraces all whose Maker is the same.

*The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:21-37*

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

**The Sermon**  
*Jesus Raises the Stakes*  
Kimberly Clayton

**RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD. . .**

*Affirmation of Faith*  
*From the Heidelberg Catechism*

Q. 105 What is God’s will for you in the sixth commandment?

A: I am not to belittle, hate, insult, or kill my neighbor—not by my thoughts, my words, my look or gestures,  
and certainly not by actual deeds—and I am not to be party to this in others;  
rather I am to put away all desire for revenge. I am not to harm or recklessly endanger myself either.  
Q. 106 Does this commandment refer only to murder?

A: By forbidding murder God teaches us that he hates the root of murder: envy, hatred, anger, vindictiveness.  
In God’s sight all such are disguised forms of murder.

Q. 107 Is it enough then that we do not murder our neighbor in any such way?

A: No. By condemning envy, hatred, and anger God wants us to love our neighbors as ourselves,
to be patient, peace-loving, gentle, merciful, and friendly toward them,
to protect them from harm as much as we can, and to do good even to our enemies.

The Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

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. Amen.

GOING FORTH AND SERVING IN GOD’S NAME . . .

* The Hymn 366 Love Divine All Love Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, Thou art all compassion;
Pure unbounded love Thou art; Visit us with Thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast; Let us all in Thee inherit;
Let us find that promised rest. Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver; let us all Thy life receive; suddenly return,
and never, never more Thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing,
serve Thee as Thy hosts above, pray and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be. let us see Thy great salvation
perfectly restored in Thee: changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*The Charge & Benediction

The Postlude Fugue in C Major Handel, arr. Broughton

The flowers are given today with love. Psalm 37:4

Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.

Today’s Worship Leaders:

Preacher: Kim Clayton
Liturgists: Patty Toler, Eric Snader
Choir Masters: Mary Ann and Larry Casey
Organist: Amy Shirk