



Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 21, 2024

* *Please stand if you are able*

Prelude: "The Majesty and Glory of Your Name" arr. Fred Bock

Gathering

WELCOME & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Acolyte: Jesus Christ is the light of the world. We light this candle as a sign that Christ has come and Christ will come again. As the light pushes back darkness let us walk with, learn from, and worship Jesus Christ.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world—which some seek to control, and others view with despair—we declare with joy and trust:

All: Our world belongs to God!

Liturgist: From the beginning, through all the crises of our times, until the kingdom fully comes, God keeps covenant forever:

All: Our world belongs to God!

Liturgist: God is King: Let the earth be glad! Christ is victor: his rule has begun! The Spirit is at work: creation is renewed!

All: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

Our World Belongs to God - Preamble

* **All Singing: 10 "We Sing the Mighty Power of God"**

* GOD'S GREETING

* GOD'S PEOPLE GREETING ONE ANOTHER

* **All Singing:** 26 “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”
Singing verses 1, 2, 3, and 6

Children ages 2–7 may come forward for a brief word and blessing before they leave for “God Loves Me” and “Children in Worship.”

CHILDREN’S BLESSING

Children: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Reconciliation

Liturgist: Together, male and female, single and married, young and old—every hue and variety of humanity—we are called to represent God, for the Lord God made us all.

All: **Life is God’s gift to us, and we are called to foster the well-being of all the living, protecting from harm the unborn and the weak, the poor and the vulnerable.**

OWBG Stanza 11

Liturgist: All spheres of life—family and friendship, work and worship, school and state, play and art—bear the wounds of our rebellion.

All: **Sin is present everywhere—in pride of race, arrogance of nations, abuse of the weak and helpless, disregard for water, air, and soil, destruction of living creatures, slavery, murder, terror, and war, worship of false gods, the mistreatment of our bodies, and our frantic efforts to escape reality. We become victims of our own sin.**

OWBG Stanza 16

Silent Confession and Reflection

Liturgist: Remembering the promise to reconcile the world to himself, God joined our humanity in Jesus Christ—the eternal Word made flesh.

All: **He is the long-awaited Messiah, one with us and one with God, fully human and fully divine, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

Liturgist: Standing in our place, Jesus suffered during his years on earth, especially in the tortures of the cross. He carried God’s judgment on our sin—his sacrifice removed our guilt.

All: **God raised him from the dead: he walked out of the grave, conqueror of sin and death—Lord of Life!**

Liturgist: We are set right with God, given new life, and called to walk with him in freedom from sin’s dominion.

OWBG – Stanzas 23-25

Choir: “All Things New”

Hagenberg

Light after darkness, gain after loss, strength after weakness, crown after cross;
sweet after bitter, hope after fears, home after wandering, praise after tears

Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end, He is making all things new.
Springs of living water, shall wash away each tear, He is making all things new

Sight after mystery, sun after rain, joy after sorrow, peace after pain;
Near after distant, gleam after gloom, love after wandering, life after tomb

Liturgist: The Spirit gathers people from every tongue, tribe, and nation into the unity of the body of Christ.

All: **Anointed and sent by the Spirit, the church is thrust into the world, ambassadors of God’s peace, announcing forgiveness and reconciliation, proclaiming the good news of grace.**

Liturgist: Going before them and with them, the Spirit convinces the world of sin and pleads the cause of Christ.

All: **Men and women, impelled by the Spirit, go next door and far away into science and art, media and marketplace—every area of life, pointing to the reign of God with what they do and say.**

OWBG – Stanza 30

Proclamation

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

* **All Singing:** **755** **“Speak, O Lord”**

Scripture: Genesis 9:18-29

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: The Sons and Daughters of Noah

* **All Singing:** **706** **“There Is a Balm in Gilead”**

Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Liturgist: With joy, let us now offer our gifts, in music, heart, and resource, as a sign of our deep devotion and covenant faithfulness.

OFFERING

1. General Fund

2. Deacons Special Fund

Choir: “The Work of Christmas”

Forrest

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among brothers, to make music from the heart.

* **All Singing:** **959** **“Glory Be to the Father”**

Sending

* BENEDICTION

Minister: We rejoice in the goodness of God, renounce the works of darkness, and dedicate ourselves to holy living.

All: **As covenant partners, set free for joyful obedience, we offer our hearts and lives to do God’s work in the world.**

Liturgist: With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended, we expect the Day of the Lord. We are confident that the light which shines in the present darkness will fill the earth when Christ appears.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus. Our world belongs to you.** *OWBG – Stanza 6*

* **All Singing:** **927** **“God, the Father of Your People”**

Postlude: “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” arr. Michael Burkhardt

Worship Leaders

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Organist / Pianist: | Dora Diephouse | Acolyte: | Vera Hulford |
| Vocalist: | Aron Reppmann | Liturgist: | Dorothy Wassenaar |
| Guitar: | Marjie Coleman | Prayer: | James Hofman |
| Percussion: | Clay Carlson | | |
| Choir Director: | David Baar | | |
| Choir Accompanist: | Monika Miodragovic | | |
| Minister: | Roger Nelson | | |

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