

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 28, 2024

* *Please stand if you are able*

Prelude: "Amazing Grace"

Traditional

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: Even now, as history unfolds in ways we know only in part, we are assured that God is with us in our world, holding all things in tender embrace and bending them to his purpose.

All: The confidence that the Lord is faithful gives meaning to our days and hope to our years.

Liturgist: The future is secure for,

All: Our world belongs to God!

Our World Belongs to God – Stanza 12

* **All Singing: 405 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"**

* GOD'S GREETING

* GOD'S PEOPLE GREETING ONE ANOTHER

* **All Singing: 347 "The Steadfast Love of the Lord"**
Singing twice

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: In the beginning of human history, our first parents walked with God.

All: But rather than living by the Creator’s word of life, they listened to the serpent’s lie and fell into sin.

Liturgist: In their rebellion they tried to be like God. As sinners, Adam and Eve feared the nearness of God and hid.

All: Fallen in that first sin, we prove each day that apart from grace we are guilty sinners: we fail to thank God, we break God’s laws, we ignore our tasks.

Liturgist: Looking for life without God, we find death; grasping for freedom outside the law, we trap ourselves in Satan’s snares; pursuing pleasure, we lose the gift of joy.

OWBTG – Stanza 13-14

Silent Confession and Reflection

All Singing: 460 “Our Eyes are Turned”

**Our eyes are turned to the Lord Jesus Christ.
Our eyes are turned to the Lord God, our Savior.**

Liturgist: Being both divine and human, Jesus is the only mediator. He alone paid the debt of our sin; there is no other Savior.

All: We are chosen in Christ to become like him in every way.

Liturgist: God’s electing love sustains our hope: God’s grace is free to save sinners who offer nothing but their need for mercy.

All: Jesus ascended in triumph, raising our humanity to the heavenly throne.

Liturgist: All authority, glory, and sovereign power are given to him. There he hears our prayers and pleads our cause before the Father.

All: Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

OWBTG – Stanza 26-27

*** All Singing: 682 “Before the Throne of God Above”**

Liturgist: At Pentecost, promises old and new are fulfilled. The ascended Jesus becomes the baptizer, drenching his followers with his Spirit, creating a new community where Father, Son, and Holy Spirit make their home.

All: Revived and filled with the breath of God, women and men, young and old, dream dreams and see visions.

Liturgist: The Spirit renews our hearts and moves us to faith, leads us into truth, and helps us to pray, stands by us in our need, and makes our obedience fresh and vibrant.

All: God the Spirit lavishes gifts on the church in astonishing variety—prophecy, encouragement, healing, teaching, service, tongues, discernment—equipping each member to build up the body of Christ and to serve our neighbors.

OWBTG – Stanza 28-29

Proclamation

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All Singing: 749 “Spirit of the Living God”

Scripture: Ephesians 2:11-22

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: The Purpose of God

* **All Singing: 248 “We Are Your People”**

Dedication

Liturgist: We grieve that the church, which shares one Spirit, one faith, one hope, and spans all time, place, race, and language, has become a broken communion in a broken world.

All: When we struggle for the truth of the gospel and for the righteousness God demands, we pray for wisdom and courage.

Liturgist: When our pride or blindness hinders the unity of God's household, we seek forgiveness. We marvel that the Lord gathers the broken pieces to do his work and that he blesses us still with joy, new members, and surprising evidences of unity.

All: We commit ourselves to seeking and expressing the oneness of all who follow Jesus, and we pray for brothers and sisters who suffer for the faith.

OWBTG – Stanza 40

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. Calvinist Cadet Corps

OFFERTORY “Jesus, Jesus, Fill Us with Your Love”

arr. Robert Powell

* **All Singing: 394 “All Praise to You, My God, This Night”**
Singing verse 4

Sending

* BENEDICTION

Minister: With the whole creation we join the song:

All: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

Liturgist: He has made us a kingdom of priests to serve our God, and we will reign on earth. God will be all in all, righteousness and peace will flourish, everything will be made new, and every eye will see at last that our world belongs to God.

All: Hallelujah! Come, Lord Jesus!

OWBTG – Stanza 58


* **All Singing: 608 “Salvation Belongs to Our God”**

Postlude

Worship Leaders

Organist / Flutist:	Lynn Hollender	Acolyte:	Moises Pacheco
Pianist / Vocalist:	Erin Pacheco	Liturgist:	Cadets
Vocalist:	Jennifer LaChonce	Prayer:	Cadets
Prelude Pianist:	Rowan Van Wyngarden		
Guitar:	Jenson Varghese		
Percussion:	Clay Carlson		
Minister:	Roger Nelson		

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