

The Worship of God
4th Sunday after the Epiphany – January 29, 2023 – 9:00 Morning Worship
Welcome to First Presbyterian Church via Zoom!

PRELUDE

“Be Thou My Vision”

John Eggert

WELCOME

GATHERING AROUND GOD’S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Friends, come!

Gather around deep insight.

Feed on words of unusual wisdom, seeing before us an unfolding vision
of a renewed and just world as close and real as our breathing.

Come!

**Jesus, our teacher, healer, leader, and friend,
invites our good and attentive company.**

Our time together will be blessed.

OPENING PRAYER

Open to your Spirit and alive to the Christ, who was,
who is, and who comes, we gather in thanksgiving, O God.

We offer you our adoration, our acclaim, and our very lives as we sing.

SING

“What Does the Lord Require of You?”

#70

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We have heard it said:

It’s just common sense.

Self-protection at all costs.

Conquer or be conquered.

Charity always begins at home;

and we often believe without thinking

We have heard it said:

Of course, our culture is superior.

Warheads make for peace and security.

Wealth will buy happiness.

Celebrities are role models;

and we often believe without thinking

We have heard it said:

Nothing can be done to change that.

The poor will always be with us.

I am not my brother or sister’s keeper.

Tears are for women and children;

and we often believe without thinking

God of surprises and non-convention,
grace us with a vulnerability and openness
to hear the wise and lyrical voice of Jesus anew.
May our way of seeing, thinking, acting, and responding
be changed in light of Jesus' great love of you and the world of your making.
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Blessed ones, the God who gathers us together with words of peace and hope,
is the same God who renews grace and peace within us now.
We are a loved and forgiven people.
Thanks be to God.
Amen.

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

I invite you to turn to one another and share a sign of peace:
You're invited to unmute yourselves and exchange peace with one another

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Micah 6:1-8

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 5:1-12

...The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

Reverend Susan Phillips

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SING

"Be Thou My Vision"

#450

GIVING OUR GIFTS

DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

#608

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The poor struggle to put food on the table,
the meek are bullied in the schoolyards,
the mourners find no comfort in hollow words,
and peacemakers are publicly ridiculed by those who should be emulating them.
So, as we offer our gifts to you, Gracious God,
we pray you would use them to bring blessings to all in this world.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE CHAT WINDOW

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts & debtors)

SENDING INTO GOD'S WORLD

SING

"All Who Love and Serve Your City"

#351

SENDING

Go now, beloved, to follow the love of God

to be surprised by God's wonder

to lift your voice for love and compassion.

Dare to believe that you are people on a mission of healing and grace.

Feel God's encouragement to be a blessing

as you offer blessings with your heart and hands

and know that you never, ever go alone.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

"Forth in Thy Name, O Lord"

Noel Rawsthorne