

St. Stephen Presbyterian Church

Fort Worth, Texas

Service for The Lord's Day

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

January 22, 2023 - 11:00 a.m.

† — Please stand in body or spirit.

ENTERING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PRELUDE: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (2015)

Benjamin Kolodziej

PEAL OF THE TOWER BELLS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader I was glad when they said unto me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord."

All **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers."**

Leader For the sake of the house of the Lord our God I will seek your good. *Ps. 122*

† HYMN: 475 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

NETTLETON

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Leader Give thanks to God with all your heart, for great are the works of the Lord.

All **Lord God this is the day that you have made, a day of light of your light, a day of great joy. Reveal yourself to all who grope in darkness and in the shadow of death. Come to those who mourn. Let us see the light that comforts us, the kindly light, and hear your good news for this world for ever and ever. Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*kneeling or bowing down*)

Leader If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not with us. But if we confess our sins, then God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin:

All **Lord God, we see the sins of the world in the light of your only Son. Since his coming to be your mercy toward us, we have come to suspect how hard and unrelenting we are toward each other. We ask you to renew us according to his example. Let us grow like him and no longer repay evil with evil, but make peace and live in truth today and every day of our lives...(*silent confession*)**

KYRIE



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer - cy up - on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader Hear, believe, and proclaim the Good News!

All **For God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**

Leader For the Son came into the world not to condemn the world but that through him the world would be saved.

All **In Christ Jesus, we are forgiven, made new, and set free. Thanks be to God in Christ Jesus our Lord!**
Leader The peace of the Lord be with you.
All **And also with you.**
Leader Please stand and greet your neighbors as a sign of Christ's love, saying "The peace of Christ be with you."

† GLORIA PATRI 580

SCOTTISH

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.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Courtney Mullins

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Psalm 23

Pew Bible OT p. 501

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 27:1, 4-9

Setting by David Haas

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Colossians 1:11-22

Pew Bible NT p. 200

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

All children 5th grade and younger are invited into the center of the sanctuary to surround the Gospeler during the Gospel Processional Hymn. Afterwards, the children will be led out of the sanctuary to the Chapel for Godly Play and return during the hymn that follows the sermon.

† GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 187 *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* 1-2 | 3-4

BRADBURY

† GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 2:1-12

Pew Bible NT p. 36

Leader This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: "For My Name's Sake"

The Reverend Dr. Warner M. Bailey, *Theologian-in-Residence*

SILENT REFLECTION

From start to finish the Bible is God's big pushback. It pushes back against a view of history that leads to the crash and destruction of all things. God created this world as a good place and this world will reach its zenith in the coming Kingdom of God. God pushes back against all showboating saviors who inflate themselves by sucking in the hopes and dreams of a desperate population. Because this world originated in good and will be completed in good, God protects all who seek justice for the weak and health for our planet. God pushes back against any view of life as a grim struggle between people who have no hope or sense of possibility because God is the God of possibility.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

† HYMN: 737 *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song*

LES PETITES SOEURS

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – *Adapted from The Belhar Confession of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church of South Africa, 1986*

We believe that the church is the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and one another. This unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity, and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered. This unity is manifested in that we love one another and give ourselves willingly and joyfully to one another; that we together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ; together are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity; together bear one another's burdens, suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness, pray together and together serve God in this world.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: *Light of Light* (1953)

Everett Titcomb (1884–1968)

*A Light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.
God of God, Light of light, very God of very God, Light of Light,
Almighty God, who hast poured upon us the new light of thine incarnate Word,
Grant that the same light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives.*

† DOXOLOGY 606

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND INTERCESSION

Leader Let us yield ourselves in prayer to the Lord, our God.

All You have made your dwelling among us, God, and you are present wherever we live together.
We cling to that grace! Make us honor your presence and make us wise and strong enough to build each other up into your city on earth, the Body of Christ, a world fit to live in, today and forever.
Prayer continues...

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*kneeling or bowing down*)

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.

DEPARTING IN GOD'S GRACE

† HYMN: 10 *Sing Glory to the Name of God*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

PEAL OF THE TOWER BELLS

POSTLUDE: *Postlude on OLD HUNDREDTH* (1971)

Fred Bock (1939-1998)

The flowers today are given to the Glory of God by the Chancel Guild.



Think. Serve. Worship. Belong.

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