

**Fourth Sunday After Epiphany  
February 2, 2025**

**Gathering**  
*God invites us to enter His presence*

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Preparation for Worship** (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

**! Call to Worship** (*Responsively*)

*Dan Obenschain*

God calls us to worship, **and we come**,  
some with laughter and songs of joy.  
God calls us to worship, **and we come**,  
some from a sense of obligation or habit.  
God calls us to worship, **and we come**,  
some with hearts heavy with grief.  
God calls us to worship, **and we come**,  
some with distraction or exhaustion.  
God calls us to worship, **and we come**,  
some with eagerness and enthusiasm.  
God calls us to worship, **and we come**,  
some with stress, loneliness, or depression.  
As God's dearly loved children,  
we bring all our joy and pain, hurt and hope  
**into this place of Spirit-given grace, love, and hope.**

**! Invocation** (*Responsively*)

*Dan Obenschain*

God of goodness and grace, we long for your presence,  
for the peace your promises bring, and for the assurances we have  
received through the gift of your Son.  
**May we, your people, this day and every day,  
have open eyes to see and open ears to hear  
your presence among us.**  
Open us to your Holy Spirit, Lord, and prepare us for worship.  
**Amen.**

**! Opening Song**

*O Love that Will not Let Me Go*

*O love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thine ocean depths in flow  
may richer, fuller be.*

*O light that follow'st all my way,  
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,*

*That in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
may brighter, fairer be.*

*O joy that seekest me through pain,  
I can not close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain,  
That morn shall tearless be.*

*O cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
And from the ground there blossoms red  
life that shall endless be.*

**Confessing**  
**God invites us to be honest with Him**

**Call to Confession**

*Dan Obenschain*

We cannot come before God unless we are first honest with ourselves about who we are, about the mistakes we make, and about how well or poorly we care for others. In this spirit, let us offer our prayers to God.

**Prayer of Confession**

*Dan Obenschain*

Jesus, the Magi saw you, we see you in the Bible, and the whole world can see you in creation. As we see you, we also look at ourselves and see that we do not always obey you. Forgive us for not following you. Free us from our sin for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

**Time for Silent Confession**

**Assurance of Pardon**

*Dan Obenschain*

There is now no condemnation  
for those who are in Christ Jesus.

—Romans 8:1, NIV

**Leader:** *This is the Promise of the Lord*

**All:** **Thanks be to God!**

**! 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.  
A-men, A-men.*

**! Passing of the Peace**

**Leader:** *The Peace of the Lord be with You*

**All:** **And also with you**

## Offering

***Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him***

**Invitation**      Let us give thanks to the Lord with all our being.  
In the company of the upright, let us honor God for the  
blessings and goodness we have received.  
—based on Psalm 111:1

### **Offering**

**Offertory**                      *Leaning on My Everlasting Arms*  
*Dennis Lesher, Dan Baker*

### **! Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
*Praise Him, all creatures here below;*  
*Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;*  
*Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

### **! Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, we give our best, lest in gaining the world we  
lose life itself. As a covenant people, we seek to witness to  
your will and way. Help us to know more clearly what you  
would have us do with the wealth entrusted to our care.  
As we contribute to the needs of your people, we present  
ourselves as living sacrifices. Through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## Proclaiming

***God speaks to us through His Word***

**! Preparation Hymn 382**      *Be Thou My Vision*

**Scripture Reading**              *John 3:1-21*

**3** There was a man from the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. **2** This man came to him at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could perform these signs you do unless God were with him."

**3** Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

**4** "How can anyone be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked him. "Can he enter his mother's womb a second time and be born?"

**5** Jesus answered, "Truly I tell you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. **6** Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** Do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again. **8** The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of

the Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup> “How can these things be?” asked Nicodemus.

<sup>10</sup> “Are you a teacher of Israel and don’t know these things?” Jesus replied. <sup>11</sup> “Truly I tell you, we speak what we know and we testify to what we have seen, but you do not accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you don’t believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven —the Son of Man.

<sup>14</sup> “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup> Anyone who believes in him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God. <sup>19</sup> This is the judgment: The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone who does evil hates the light and avoids it, so that his deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But anyone who lives by the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be shown to be accomplished by God.”

**Sermon**

*“Jesus and Nicodemus”  
Rev. Tim Latham*



**Hymn of Response 66**

*To God Be The Glory*

**Sacrament of Communion**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise!**

**Invitation to the Table**

Leader: For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you  
proclaim the Lord's death until He comes Again!

**People: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come  
again!**

**Responding**

***We respond to God's Word***



**Profession of Faith** *(In Unison)*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

Born of the Virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, died, and buried;  
He descended into hell;  
The third day he rose from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The holy catholic church,  
The communion of saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body,  
And the life everlasting. Amen.

**Commissioning**

*God sends us out into the world as His witnesses*



**Commission Hymn 276**     *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*



**Benediction & Blessing**



**Postlude**

**Congregational Meeting**