

Service of Word and Sacrament

January 13 and January 16, 2021



“Even the darkness is not dark to you”

~ Psalm 139:12 (NRSV)



SECOND WEEK AFTER EPIPHANY

Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG

“WITHIN OUR DARKEST NIGHT”

TAIZÉ

With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the fire that nev - er dies a -
Dans nos ob - scu - ri - tés al - lu - me le feu qui ne s'é - teint ja -
way, nev - er dies a - way. With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the
mais, ne - s'é - teint ja - mais. Dans nos ob - scu - ri - tés, al - lu - me le
fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a - way. With - in our dark - est
feu qui ne s'é - teint ja - mais, ne s'é - teint ja - mais. Dans nos ob - scu - ri -

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GREETING

PRESIDER

CALL TO WORSHIP

O Lord, you have searched us and known us.

Before we move or think or speak, you know our actions and our words.

You breathed life into us, and shaped us in human form to serve your purpose and sing your praise.

We praise you for the gifts of substance and spirit, of acceptance and expectancy, of lineage and legacy.

How wonderful are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the expanse of your grace and love!

Praise the Lord!

The Lord's name be praised!

OPENING HYMN

“HAVE THINE OWN WAY, LORD”

UMH 382

**Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Thou art the potter,
I am the clay.
Mold me and make me
after thy will,
while I am waiting,
yielded and still.**

**Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Search me and try me,
Savior today!
Wash me just now, Lord,
wash me just now,
as in thy presence
humbly I bow.**

**Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Wounded and weary,
help me I pray!
Power, all power,
surely is thine!
Touch me and heal me,
Savior divine!**

**Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Hold o'er my being
absolute sway.
Fill with thy Spirit
till all shall see
Christ only, always,
living in me!**

CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Let us join our voices together in a unison prayer of confession:

**Most holy, most forgiving, and most loving God,
we admit to you and to each other,
that we are weak ones who foolishly and thoughtlessly choose darkness over the
bright light of your grace.**

**Together, we admit our weakness and submit to you all our foolishness and
thoughtlessness; our pride and vanity; our short-sightedness and lack of
wisdom; our inability to change for the better and our reluctance to ask for
your guidance.**

**Please forgive the pain and oppression we continue to visit upon others;
restore in us the bright light of hope and cleanse our hearts and minds
We beseech you, Lord, soften our hearts and strengthen our will to follow you.
In the name of our Lord, Christ Jesus, our Savior. Amen!**

Friends, hear this good news: Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in
power for us, Christ prays for us.

**Everyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old is finished and gone,
everything has become fresh and new.**

Believe the good news of the Gospel!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

You are invited to pass the peace to each other by waving or by typing in the chat function in Zoom.

Peace be with you! **And also with you!**

Let us share this peace with one another.

Service of the Word

POEM

“THE RUNAWAY BUNNY (EXCERPTS)”

BY MARGARET WISE BROWN

You are invited to contemplate this story as a demonstration of the relentless love of God.

Once there was a little bunny who wanted to run away.

So he said to his mother, “I am running away.”

“If you run away,” said his mother, “I will run after you.

For you are my little bunny.”

“If you run after me,” said the little bunny,
“I will become a fish in a trout stream
and I will swim away from you.”

“If you become a fish in a trout stream,” said his mother,
“I will become a fisherman and I will fish for you.”

And they go on: he becomes a rock on a mountain high above her, she becomes a mountain climber, he becomes a flower in a hidden garden, she becomes the gardener, he becomes a bird, a sailboat, a trapeze artist, she becomes the tree, the wind, a tightrope walker. And when he becomes a little boy who runs into a house she answers,

“If you become a little boy and run into a house,”
said the mother bunny, “I will become your mother
and catch you in my arms and hug you.”

“Shucks,” said the bunny, “I might just as well
stay where I am and be your little bunny.”

And so he did.

“Have a carrot,” said the mother bunny.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

PSALM 139

NRSV

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far
away.
You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become
night,”
even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness
is as light to you.

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s
womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.

My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately
woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days
that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with
you.

O that you would kill the wicked, O God, and that the bloodthirsty would depart
from me—

those who speak of you maliciously, and lift themselves up against you for evil!

Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord? And do I not loathe those who rise up
against you?

I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.

See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

[Pause for 1 deep breath.]

Hear what God is saying to the people. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

DAVE GORDON (1/13), KECIA MUNROE (1/16)

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Let us implore the Lord our God praying,
“Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.”

We pray for leaders of the Church.
May they serve as examples
to those who would come to believe in Christ for eternal life.
May the Church place its hope in you, O God,
and not in human wisdom.

Silence

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

We pray for the leaders of the nations.
May they show mercy and advocate for the rights of the people.
May they, like Moses, seek the greater good rather than their own interests

Silence

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

We thank you for all you created.
We thank you that your Son Jesus Christ rejoiced in your creation—
telling stories about sheep, praying in the wilderness and walking on the sea.
May we also appreciate the works of your hands.

Silence

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

We pray for the sick, the anxious and the sorrowful.
Make them hear of joy and gladness,
that broken bodies and broken spirits may rejoice.

Silence

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

We trust to your mercy, O God, all who have died.
May they rest eternally in your peace.
To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, our God,
be honor and glory forever and ever.

Silence

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY SONG

“YOUR HAND UPON ME”

GROVER

**Oh Lord You have searched me
And You know my ways
You perceive all my thoughts from afar
Your hand is upon me wherever I go
Before I form each word
You already know**

**If I rise on the wings of the dawn
You are there
If I rest on the far side of the sea
Your love hems me in
Both behind and before
You have laid Your hand upon me
You have laid Your hand upon me**

**Where can I flee from
Your presence O Lord
If I sleep in the depths You are there
Your day will consume all the shadows of night**

**The dark cannot hide
From Your brilliant light**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

God is with you! **And also with you!**

Open your hearts! **We open our hearts to God!**

Let us give thanks to God! **It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three! Before all this, You were God. Outside all we know, You are God. After all is finished, You will be God. Archangels sound the trumpets, angels teach us to sing, Saints pull us into Your presence.

And this is our song:

Santo, santo, santo [NCH 793]

Mi Corazon te adora,

Mi Corazon te sabe decir

Santo eres Dios

Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three! You beyond the galaxies, You under the oceans, You inside the leaves, You pouring down rain,

You opening the flowers, You feeding the insects, You giving us Your image, You carrying us through the waters, You holding us in the night; Your smile on Hagar, Sarah, and Abraham, Your hand with Moses and Miriam,...

Your words through Deborah and Isaiah – You lived as Jesus among us, healing teaching, dying, rising, and inviting us all to Your feast.

And so we pray after Him: Our Friend, our Brother, ...

**...our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

Save us from the time of trial

**and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks;
Broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying:

“Take and eat this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for
the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Holy God, we remember Your Son, His life with the humble, His death among the
wretched, His resurrection for us all:

Your wisdom our guide, Your justice our strength, Your grace our way to rebirth.

And so we cry, Mercy: **Mercy!**

And so we cry, Glory: **Glory!**

And so we cry, Blessing: **Blessing!**

Holy God, we beg for Your Spirit. Enliven this bread, awaken this body, pour us out for
each other. Transfigure our minds, ignite Your church, nourish the life of the earth.
Make us, while many, united; make us, though broken, whole; make us, despite
death, alive.

And so we cry, Come, Holy Spirit: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

And so the church shouts, Come, Holy Spirit: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

And so the whole earth pleads, Come, Holy Spirit: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three – our life, our mercy, our might,
our table, our food, our server, our rainbow, our ark, our dove,...
...our sovereign, our water, our wine, our light, our treasure, our tree,
our way, our truth, our life – You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three!
Praise now, praise tomorrow, praise forever! **Amen!**

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

*CLOSING SONG

“PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND”

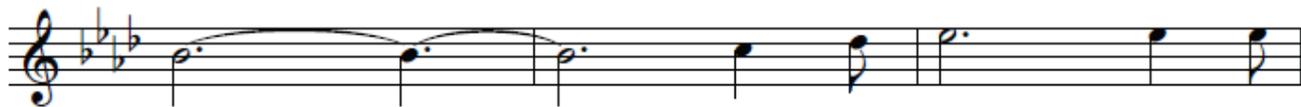
AAHH 471



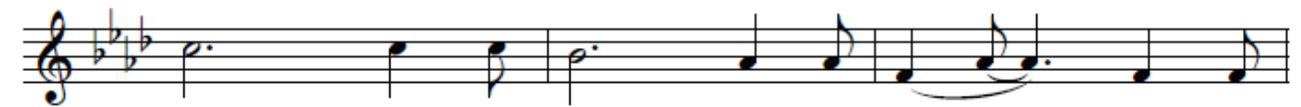
1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me
 2. When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger
 3. When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws



stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am
 near, When my life is al - most
 near, And the day is past and



worn. Through the storm, through the
 gone, Hear my cry, hear my
 gone, At the riv - er I



night, Lead me on to the light. Take my
 call, Hold my hand lest I fall. Take my
 stand, Guide my feet, hold my hand. Take my



hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
 hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
 hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899–1993
 Tune: PRECIOUS LORD, 66 9 D; George N. Allen, 1812–1877; adapt. by Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899–1993; arr. by Kelly Dobbs-Mickus, b.1966
 © 1938, (renewed), arr. © 2011, Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp.

BENEDICTION

SENDING & POSTLUDE

Go and search diligently where God resides,
And pay homage to all in whom the Spirit lives.

Cover Art: Edy, John William, 1760-1820. *View near Oster Riisoer*, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55882> [retrieved July 8, 2020]. Original source: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:View_near_Oster_Riis%C3%B6er_\(JW_Edy_plate_23\).jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:View_near_Oster_Riis%C3%B6er_(JW_Edy_plate_23).jpg).

Call to Worship: Michael Morgan, organist, Central Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, Georgia; Liturgylink <https://www.liturgylink.net/2012/01/10/call-to-worship-based-on-psalm-139/>, accessed July 9, 2020.

Poem: Margaret Wise Brown, *The Runaway Bunny* (New York: Harper & Row, 1942).

Prayer of Illumination: Caldwell Presbyterian Church, "Prayers for Illumination (for Scripture Readers)," <http://www.caldwellpresby.org/docs/resources/Prayers%20for%20Illumination.pdf>

Prayer of the Community: written by Father Jeremiah Williamson, rearranged by Seminary Chapel Team, <http://jeremiahwilliamson.blogspot.ca/>, accessed July 9, 2020.

Offertory Song: Eric Grover © 2001 Sovereign Grace Worship (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (Integrity Music, David C Cook)

Communion Liturgy: Modified "Triple Praise" – A Eucharist Liturgy by Gail Ramshaw from *Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services with Adaptations*.

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**The worship planning team creates all other parts of the liturgy except where noted.*

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THE WORSHIP TEAM SEEKS:

To serve the universal church of our Creator.

To minister to the unique and diverse needs of the seminary community.

To foster an expansive culture of worship that values difference and challenges the normative.