

CHRIST CHURCH PRESBYTERIAN

December 30, 2018



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Christ Church Presbyterian 1st Sunday after Christmas

December 30, 2018

10:30 A.M.

Called to love, serve and witness.

Thought as we enter worship
Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible. – Tenzin Gyatso

GATHERING

Quiet meditation time (Please fill out a card with any prayer requests and put it in the collection plate.) – Thanks

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

O God, in creation you fashion us in your image,

In Christ you reveal to us your love,

Through the Holy Spirit you welcome us into the fellowship of believers;

We bow in gratitude before you.

We constantly distort your image, but still you restore it.

We daily betray your love, but still you extend it.

We often disrupt fellowship, but still you bless it.

Come unto us at this time and in this place, O Lord, that your image in us might be revealed, your love for us returned, and our fellowship in Christ renewed. Amen.

INVOCATION (Opening Prayer):

The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy!

Our God has turned our weeping into singing, our tears into songs of joy!

O Christ of God, come anew in our hearts this day, and remain in us forever. **Amen** —based on Psalm 126

***HYMN BLUE #68 “What Star Is This, With Beams So Bright”**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Come, let us confess our sins to our God

Because of his wonderful mercy, he will forgive

Because of his great love, he will pardon us,

Because of his amazing grace, he will restore us.

***CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.

We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.

We have not loved you with a pure heart,

Nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves.

We have not done justice, loved kindness,

Or walked humbly with you, our God.

Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness.

In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin.

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

Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us.

Restore to us the joy of your salvation

and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

—based on Psalm 51:10-1

Hear the Good News. Our God who is rich in mercy, love and grace restores us to new life. In Christ we are made new, we are children of God. Rejoice in God's goodness and grace.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

May the peace, love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you

And also with you.

Let us greet one another in the name of the Lord.

*** GREEN #80 "Open Our Eyes, Lord"**

THE PEOPLE OF GOD HEAR THE WORD**CHILDREN'S SERMON -- NOISY OFFERING****HEARING GOD'S WORD Galatians 1:11-24**

I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human

being. I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus.

Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days. I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord's brother. I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie.

Then I went to Syria and Cilicia. I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. They only heard the report: "The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." And they praised God because of me.

SERMON "A Transformed Life"

***HYMN #63 "As With Gladness Men of Old"**

THE PEOPLE OF GOD RESPOND**THE OFFERING**

LIFTING PRAISE TO GOD – HYMN #593 *The Doxology

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Almighty and most merciful God, your goodness has created us, your bounty has sustained us, your discipline has chastened us, your patience has borne with us, and your love has redeemed us. Give us a heart to love and serve you. Help us show our gratitude for all your goodness and mercy by serving you and cheerfully submitting in all things to your will. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We give you praise and thanks, O Lord that you have called us to be your children. We are grateful for your love that led you to die for us and offer ourselves as your servants to be conduits of your love and grace in the world. With joy we thank you for the ways our congregation has shown your love this week. We praise you for your grace, honor you for your love and rejoice in your mercy. With deepest gratitude we proclaim you God.

[Time for Silent Congregational Prayer]

O God of compassion, we ask that our hearts be moved to show compassion for others. We especially pray for those who have suffered the loss of loved ones, home, food and shelter. We pray for all those who are prisoners, those who suffer addictions, and those who suffer daily. We remember before you the sick and dying, those who are lonely, those who are victims of war, terror, and injustice. We ask for mercy for those who suffer abuse especially those who are enslaved and grace for those who oppress others. We recall all those who have worshipped with us in the past and are unable to do so today.

[Time for Silent Congregational Prayer]

O Lord of the nations, we pray for all those who exercise authority over others. May they remember that their power is granted them to care for their people. May they pursue peace and justice as they seek first your kingdom and your righteousness. Help us all remember we need your love and grace. Grant us the courage to model your mercy to those around us.

[Time for Silent Congregational Prayer]

O Lord Jesus, you are the head of the church, the beginning and the end of all things. Grant to the church universal your mercy as we struggle to follow you. Look on also upon the ministry of this congregation which you have called together with grace and kindness. Increase our courage, strengthen our faith, and inspire our witness to all people, even to the ends of the earth.

[Time for Silent Congregational Prayer]

O Gracious God, the source of all love and goodness, bless us with your Spirit as we seek to do your will. May we keep our hearts and thoughts on you through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray, saying:

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.

SENDING OUT IN SERVICE

***CLOSING HYMN BLUE #525 "Here I Am Lord"**

***BENEDICTION**

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Because of our God's tender mercy

The dawn has broken upon us from on high

To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

And to guide our feet into the way of peace

That we, being rescued, may serve him without fear,

In holiness and righteousness before him for as long as we live.

Glory to God in the highest

And on earth, peace to all people. (Cf. Luke 1:74,75,78,79; 2:14)

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

***HYMN BLUE #41 CHORUS ONLY "O Come Let Us Adore Him"**

POSTLUDE

***Please rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.**

Please join us for coffee and refreshments in Fellowship Hall after the service.

Church office hours: 8 am to Noon Monday through Thursday.

For emergencies call The Rev. Tim Dyck 319-321-4154