

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 7, 2018

Baptism of the Lord / 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

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*Please sign and pass the Friendship Book (“pew pad”) where you can also record any prayer requests. Our prayer is that you will experience the presence of the Living God as we worship together.*

*We invite you to focus your heart and mind in worship.*

*\* indicates please stand as you are able.*

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**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Rev. Don Meekhof**

**PRELUDE**

**“Reverie”**

**Organ**

*Edward H. Wetherill*

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

**Caber Welch**

Jesus said, “I have told you these things, so that in me  
you may have peace.

**In this world you will have trouble. But take heart!  
I have overcome the world.”**

*from John 16:33 (NIV)*

**\*SONGS OF WORSHIP:**

**“GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN!”**

*(Hymn #151)*

**(REFRAIN)**

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.**

**(VERSE 1)**

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

**(REPEAT REFRAIN)**

**(VERSE 2)**

The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth.

**(REPEAT REFRAIN)**

**(VERSE 3)**

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

**(REPEAT REFRAIN)**

# **“THOU DIDST LEAVE THY THRONE”**

*(Hymn #198, verses 1,2,4 and 5)*

## **(VERSE 1)**

Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown  
when thou camest to earth for me;  
but in Bethlehem's home there was found no room  
for thy holy nativity:

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,  
there is room in my heart for thee.

## **(VERSE 2)**

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,  
proclaiming thy royal degree;  
but in lowly birth thou didst come to earth,  
and in great humility:

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,  
there is room in my heart for thee.

## **(VERSE 4)**

Thou camest, O Lord, with the living Word  
that should set thy people free;  
but with mocking scorn, and with crown of thorn,  
they bore thee to Calvary:

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,  
there is room in my heart for thee.

## **(VERSE 5)**

When the heavens shall ring, and the angels sing,  
at thy coming to victory,  
let thy voice call me home, saying, "Yet there is room,  
there is room at my side for thee."

My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus,  
when thou comest and callest for me!

**TIME OF PRAYER**

**Pat Tucker**

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### **Prayer of Confession**

**God of mystery, God of life,  
we imagine that we are capable  
of power and wisdom and goodness.  
We trust our own standards;**

**we separate and categorize;  
we mark the performance of others.  
We fail to trust your power, hidden in all things.  
We fail to watch for you, working out your purposes.**

**Gracious God, hidden and manifest,  
transform our withered imaginations  
until we yield the judgments we trust  
to a love we cannot control. Amen**

*[Silent Prayer]*

### **Declaration of Forgiveness**

What then are we to say about these things?  
If God is for us, who is against us?  
Sisters and brothers, nothing we have done,  
nothing we will ever do,  
is enough to separate us from the love of God  
made known in Jesus Christ.

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### **SONG OF WORSHIP:**

*PLEASE REMAIN SEATED*

### **"THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD, I'LL NOT WANT"**

*(Hymn #330)*

#### **(VERSE 1)**

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;  
he makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; he leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.

#### **(VERSE 2)**

My soul he doth restore again;  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
e'en for his own name's sake.

#### **(VERSE 3)**

Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear no ill:  
for thou art with me, and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.

**(VERSE 4)**

My table thou hast furnished  
in presence of my foes;  
my head thou dowst with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.

**(VERSE 5)**

Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me;  
and in God's house forevermore  
my dwelling place shall be.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Rev. Don Meekhof**

**OFFERING OF OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS**

**Bill Colvin**

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**Invitation to the Offering**

The apostle Paul promises that all things  
work together for good  
for those who love God,  
who are called according to his purpose.  
We trust that God will bring forth good  
from that which we offer today.  
It is our privilege to participate in the unfolding  
of God's grace in the world.  
Let us give with grateful and expectant hearts.

**\*Doxology**

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

**Prayer of Thanksgiving/Dedication**

Holy One,  
receive these offerings as you receive our lives.  
Gather our false starts and uncertain efforts,  
our generosity and our reluctance.  
Enliven us with your breath and make your purposes  
known,

that our lives might show forth your glory,  
for we pray in the name of Jesus  
and by the power of your Spirit. **Amen.**

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*Please be seated. The ushers will pass the offering plates.  
The children are excused at this time to attend Junior Chapel.*

**Offertory**

**"Litany"**

**Organ**

*Frederick C. Werle*

## READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

**Genesis 50:15–21** (NIV)

**Caber Welch**

<sup>15</sup> When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" <sup>16</sup> So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: <sup>17</sup> 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

<sup>18</sup> His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

<sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. <sup>21</sup> So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

**Romans 8:28–34** (NIV)

**.Rev. Don Meekhof**

<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup> What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

**MESSAGE**

**Rev. Don Meekhof**

**“Great News for a New Year”**

Sermon Texts: We know that all things work together for good for those ... [or, “in all things God works for the good of those” (NIV)]... who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

– Romans 8:28 (NRSV)

“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear...”

– 1 John 4:18 (NIV)

**\*SONG OF WORSHIP:**

**“HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION”**

*(Hymn #612)*

**(VERSE 1)**

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!  
What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

**(VERSE 2)**

“Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

**(VERSE 3)**

“When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

**(VERSE 4)**

“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
the flame shall not hurt thee, I only design  
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

**(VERSE 5)**

“The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake!”

**SHARING AROUND CHRIST’S TABLE—COMMUNION**

**Rev. Don Meekhof**

*Christ becomes a part of our flesh through Holy Communion.*

*The Lord’s Supper is not an end in itself. It always points beyond itself to celebrate God’s grace and covenant faithfulness. This does not mean the physical aspects of the celebration are incidental or unimportant. The Lord’s Supper should be a celebration fitting to the abundant grace of God offered in Christ.*

**Invitation to the Lord’s Supper  
Breaking of the Bread & Pouring of the Cup  
Sharing the Body and Blood of Christ**

**\*CLOSING SONG**

*It is the custom at Knox, in celebration of Holy Communion, to hold hands and form a circle around the sanctuary to sing our closing song...*

**“BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS”**

*(Hymn #708)*

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

**BENEDICTION**

**Rev. Don Meekhof**

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**Today's Lectionary Readings****Genesis 1:1–5      Acts 19:1–7****Psalm 29            Mark 1:4–11***Questions for Reflection*

What is the difference between baptism with water alone (John's baptism; see Acts 19:3, Mark 1:8) and baptism with the Holy Spirit (baptism into Jesus; see Acts 19:4-5, Mark 1:8)? Why is it still important to use water in baptism? What does water mean in your daily life? What difference does the Holy Spirit make in baptism? What difference does the Holy Spirit make in your daily life?

***Household Prayer: Morning***

Living God, maker of light,  
 thank you for the gift of this day.  
 Let me be a light in your world  
 so that people will look at me  
 and see the goodness of your creation;  
 in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

***Household Prayer: Evening***

Living God, maker of light,  
 thank you for the gift of this night.  
 Let me be at peace in your presence  
 so that I may rest, be restored,  
 and arise to praise your glory;  
 in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

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