

ORDER OF WORSHIP

February 4, 2018

5th Sunday after the Epiphany

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.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ryan Moore

PRELUDE

“Preludio Religioso”

Organ

Ludwig van Beethoven

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ryan Moore

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

—Philippians 4:4-7 (NRSV)

***SONGS OF WORSHIP:**

“IN CHRIST ALONE”

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! Who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones he came to save:

Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied -
For every sin on him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave he rose again!

And as he stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am his and he is mine -
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath.
Jesus commands my destiny.

No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from his hand;
Till he returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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TIME OF PRAYER

Ryan Moore

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Call to Confession

We fool ourselves if we think
that our ways are hidden from God.
Therefore let us confess our sin,
trusting in the mercy of God our Maker.

Prayer of Confession

**God, you are everlasting,
the creator of all that is.
Your understanding is beyond measure.
We confess to you that we have
sinned against you and our neighbors.
In your compassion, forgive us,
for we place our hope in your steadfast love.**

[Silent Prayer]

Assurance of Pardon

Praise the Lord!

Our God heals the brokenhearted
and binds up our wounds.

God takes pleasure in those
who place their trust in God's grace.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

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SONG OF WORSHIP:

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

"HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US"

(VERSE 1)

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure
That he should give his only Son,
To make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns his face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One,
Bring many sons to glory.

(VERSE 2)

Behold the Man upon the cross,
My sin upon his shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice,
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there,
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life,
I know that it is finished.

(VERSE 3)

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart,

His wounds have paid my ransom.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Don Meekhof

ANTHEM

Choir

“Now to Praise the Name of Jesus”

Michael Bedford

OFFERING OF OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS

Judy Potter

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Invitation to the Offering

With thankfulness we give in gratitude and joy.
With prayerfulness we give in sacrifice and love.
With hopefulness we give in commitment to God.

***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.**

Offering Prayer

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.**

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

Offertory

“Deep River”

Organ

Steven Scott

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Job 19:23–26 (NIV)

John McCallum

²³ “Oh, that my words were recorded,
that they were written on a scroll,
²⁴ that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead,
or engraved in rock forever!
²⁵ I know that my redeemer lives,
and that in the end he will stand on the earth.
²⁶ And after my skin has been destroyed,
yet in my flesh I will see God”

John 10:10–15 (NIV)

John McCallum

¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Philippians 1:1–6, 18–26 (NIV)

Rev. Don Meekhof

¹ Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,
To all God’s holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together
with the overseers and deacons:

² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my
prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of
your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,
⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in
you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ
Jesus.

¹⁸ But what does it matter? The important thing is that in
every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is
preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. ²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

MESSAGE

Rev. Don Meekhof

“Living is Christ, Dying is Gain”

Sermon Text: Philippians 1:21

“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” (King James Version)

“For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.” (NRSV)

***SONG OF WORSHIP:**

“MY JESUS, I LOVE THEE”

(Hymn #101)

(VERSE 1)

My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine,
for thee all the follies of sin I resign;
my gracious Redeemer, My Savior art thou;

if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

(VERSE 2)

I love thee because thou hast first loved me,
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

(VERSE 3)

In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow:
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

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

POSTLUDE

Organ

"Postlude on 'Lobe den Herren'"

Gerald Peterson

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In the pulpit today: Don Meekhof is our “*Temporary Stated Supply*” pastor. Those words in quotes are the official title given by Presbytery because with Shared Ministry there is no full-time pastor. However, Don most definitely has a full-time love for shepherding the flock of Christ and we are blessed to have him with us!

Today’s Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 40:21–31 1 Corinthians 9:16–23
Psalms 147:1–11, 20c Mark 1:29–39

Question for Reflection

What does Paul mean when he says that he became all things to all people so that he could save some (1 Cor. 9:22)?

Household Prayer: Morning

In the morning, while it was still very dark,
Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place,
and there he prayed.

As I turn to you in prayer this morning, God,
bless me with a sense of purpose.

As I go out into this day, show me what I am to do. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Everlasting God, you have been here
from the foundations of the earth.

I give to you this day now ending,
with all its gifts and failings.

As I rest through the night,

renew my strength and, in my dreams,
lift me up on the wings of eagles. Amen.

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