

Cranston Memorial Presbyterian Church

The Third Sunday After Epiphany

January 23, 2022

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SHARED JOYS AND CONCERNS

INTROIT AND REKINDLING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

CALL TO WORSHIP

(from Psalm 19)

One: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul, making wise the simple.

**ALL: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart,
enlightening the eyes.**

One: The ordinances of the Lord are to be more desired than gold.

ALL: They are sweeter than honey, the drippings of the honeycomb.

ONE: Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of all of our hearts
be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer.

ALL: Let us Worship God!

* HYMN # 292

All Beautiful the March of Days

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(based on Luke 4:14-21)

Christ, you came to share good news with the poor and oppressed. You came to release the captives and grant sight to the blind. We, like the crowds that surrounded you at the beginning of your ministry, are fickle. We praise you when your words comfort us and deny your good news means that we need to sacrifice something.

Forgive us, God, for our wayward and fleeting love. We are blind to the true implications of your gospel. Help us to see that we may join in your proclamation of good news.

TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning it is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Old Testament Reading Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

¹all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel.

²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month.

³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday,



in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Psalm 19

¹The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

²Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

³There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

⁴yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

⁵which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hidden from its heat.

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

⁸the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;

⁹the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring for ever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

¹¹Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

¹³Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.



Epistle Reading 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But strive for the greater gifts.

Gospel Reading Luke 4:14-21

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Leader: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Word of the Lord

The Rev. Chris Torrey



* HYMN #330

Deep in the Shadows of the Past

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

* DOXOLOGY

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

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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


* HYMN # 327

O Word of God Incarnate

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND SENDING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

Session Members:

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|----------|
| Don Kissinger | Building & Grounds | 232-1538 |
| Sharon Kidd | Mission Committee Liaison | 553-7145 |
| Ruth Saylor | Treasurer | 553-4031 |
| Emilie Donham | Clerk, Congregational Care | 232-1538 |
|  Karen Roberts | Music & Worship | |
| Mike Findlan | Musician | 633-1964 |
| Jackie Nelson | Outreach / Chimes | 553-3149 |
| Bob Lees | Ruling Elder | 546-9083 |
| David Annett | Ruling Elder | 310-3069 |
| | Minister | 477-9723 |



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The Session, the Ruling Board of the church, are requiring the use of masks for all indoor activities and services at Cranston Memorial Presbyterian Church at this time. Thank you for your help in keeping everyone safe!

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