



YEAR A

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

**Cranston Memorial Presbyterian Church
January 22, 2023**

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SHARED JOYS AND CONCERNS

INTROIT AND REKINDLING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

CALL TO WORSHIP

(based on Psalm 27:1)

One: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

ALL: The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

One: We gather in the presence of God.

Let us open our hearts and minds in worship.

GATHERING PRAYER *(unison)*

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

*** HYMN #478 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, when despair and suffering overwhelm us, we cry out for you and feel abandoned. We doubt your presence and your promises. We believe you have turned away from us in anger. We ask why you have forsaken us. In these moments, strengthen us in faith and fill our hearts with courage. We believe, God. Help our unbelief. Amen.

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

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 1:10-18 (Common English Bible)

¹⁰ Now I encourage you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Agree with each other and don't be divided into rival groups. Instead, be restored with the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ My brothers and sisters, Chloe's people gave me some information about you, that you're fighting with each other. ¹² What I mean is this: that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," "I belong to Apollos," "I belong to Cephas," "I belong to Christ." ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you, or were you baptized in Paul's name?

¹⁴ Thank God that I didn't baptize any of you, except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that nobody can say that you were baptized in my name! ¹⁶ Oh, I baptized the house of Stephanas too. Otherwise, I don't know if I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ Christ didn't send me to baptize but to preach the good news. And Christ didn't send me to preach the good news with clever words so that Christ's cross won't be emptied of its meaning.

¹⁸ The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are being destroyed. But it is the power of God for those of us who are being saved.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 4:12-25 (Common English Bible)

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John was arrested, he went to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and settled in Capernaum, which lies alongside the sea in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴ This fulfilled what Isaiah the prophet said:

¹⁵ Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, alongside the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, ¹⁶ the people who lived in the dark have seen a great light, and a light has come upon those who lived in the region and in shadow of death.

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to announce, "Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!"

¹⁸ As Jesus walked alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, because they were fishermen. ¹⁹ "Come, follow me," he said, "and I'll show you how to fish for people." ²⁰ Right away, they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ Continuing on, he saw another set of brothers, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee their father repairing their nets. Jesus called them and ²² immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues. He announced the good news of the kingdom and healed every disease and sickness among the people. ²⁴ News about him spread throughout Syria. People brought to him all those who had various kinds of

diseases, those in pain, those possessed by demons, those with epilepsy, and those who were paralyzed, and he healed them. ²⁵ Large crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from the areas beyond the Jordan River.

SERMON

The Power of God

The Rev. Chris Torrey

*** HYMN**

726 Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons

Capo 3: (D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus C

- 1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
- 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
- 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
- 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
- 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F#m7) (G) (Asus)(A)
 Gm7 B^b Am7 B^b Csus C

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

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 # 84** In the Cross of Christ I Glory


BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND SENDING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

Thank you to Dawn Butler for serving as Liturgist this morning.

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