

*Celebrating Christ's Presence
In a Changing World*

St. Paul's Episcopal Church



The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

January 31, 2021

10:30 am

(The words to the hymns are printed on the last two pages of this bulletin.)

Prelude: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

John Behnke (1953-)

Welcome by the Rev. Sarah Hurlbert, Rector

Opening Hymn: The Hymnal 1982 #574
Before Thy Throne

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Celebrant:
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise *God is Love, Let Heaven Adore Him*

**God is Love: let heav'n adore him;
God is Love: let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
God who laid the earth's foundation,
God who spread the heavens above,
God who breathes through all creation,
God is Love, eternal Love.**

-The Hymnal 1982 #379 (verse.1)

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you
People **And also with you**
Celebrant Let us pray

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses said: The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

*Reader
People*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People
Thanks be to God

Psalm 111

1 Hallelujah!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, *
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

2 Great are the deeds of the LORD! *
they are studied by all who delight in them.

3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, *
and his righteousness endures for ever.

4 He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; *
the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.

5 He gives food to those who fear him; *
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

6 He has shown his people the power of his works *
in giving them the lands of the nations.

7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; *
all his commandments are sure.

8 They stand fast for ever and ever, *
because they are done in truth and equity.

9 He sent redemption to his people;
he commanded his covenant for ever; *
holy and awesome is his Name.

10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; *
those who act accordingly have a good understanding;
his praise endures for ever.

A Reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him. Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords— yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People
People **Thanks be to God**

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark 1:21-28
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Celebrant The Gospel of Christ.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon **The Reverend Sarah Hurlbert**

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor Please respond to each petition with “Hear our prayer.”

Intercessor As the prophet Isaiah proclaimed, “Arise, shine; for your light has come”; empower your Church, O God, proclaim the Good News of the Light of your son Jesus, which pierces even the deepest gloom. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor As a star rose high to draw the nations to the Christ-child; send your blessing, O God, on this nation, especially our first responders, and teachers, and draw the whole world to your peace and truth. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor As John the Baptist guided people to the edge of the wilderness and baptized Jesus in the River Jordan, we pray that you would guide our country and our leaders to the ways of justice and righteousness. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Like the Magi who traveled from afar to bring gifts and celebrate the Savior's birth; we pray for this church, the discernment of our own gifts and how best to use them. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor As Jesus climbed the mountaintop, and proclaimed blessings upon all people; we pray for the sick, the distressed and the poor in our community (especially----); and all residents of our local shelters. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Lord you wept at the death of your friend Lazarus, be with us when we mourn. We pray for those who have died (especially.....) that they are at peace. Lord in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor As Jesus called his disciples to leave their nets and boats and follow him; we pray for those who have answered your call to follow Jesus in ministry, presiding Bishop Michael, Bishop Bonnie, Sarah our Rector, Melissa our Curate, and our Vestry. Give them your peace. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant & People to say together:

(Howard Thurman)

Lord, Open unto me – light for my darkness.

Open unto me – courage for my fear.

Open unto me – hope for my despair.

Open unto me – peace for my turmoil.

Open unto me – joy for my sorrow.

Open unto me strength for my weakness.

Open unto me – wisdom for my confusion

Open unto me – forgiveness for my sins.

Open unto me – love for my hates.

Open unto me – thy Self for my self.

Lord, Lord, open unto me!

Announcements:

Thanks to all who attended last Sunday's Zoom Annual Congregational Meeting. If you did not get a copy of the 2021 Annual Report and would like one, please call or email the office and request a copy via email or ask to have one mailed to you. You may also view it via the homepage of the St. Paul's website.

Christian education for children and youth will continue this Sunday at 6PM. On Superbowl Sunday February 7, we will be sledding as a group in the afternoon and will cancel the 6PM Christian education that evening. Age group class links will be posted on the parent Facebook page Sunday afternoon for reference. Anyone that has access to Zoom can attend. Friends, extended family

members, and grandchildren are welcome. Contact Melissa with anyone you know who could be interested in this opportunity.

Join Pastor Sarah each Wednesday at 8pm on Facebook live for the service of Compline.

Please remember to call or email Pastor Sarah with news of anyone who is sick in our congregation and reach out for help when you need it. Diana Sinclair is gathering our prayer requests each week so make sure you email or call her with your requests.

Thanks to all who are helping make this worship happen and thank you all for being here!
The Peace of the Lord be always with you!

Meditation: “O Christ, the Word Incarnate”

Jan Bender (1909-1994)

The Holy Communion

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing (say):

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth filled with your glory:
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

The Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected

your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life. *

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died.**
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues,

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with St. Paul and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,
Our Father...

[Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]

Celebrant Behold what you are. Become what you receive; the body and blood of Christ.

Communion Hymn: **The Hymnal 1982 #632**
 O Christ, The Word Incarnate

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

We pray with those worshipping with us online and here with us:

Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing:

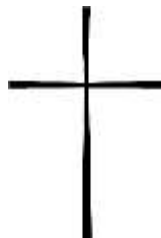
Life is short...

Closing Hymn: **The Hymnal 1982 #490**
I Want To Walk As a Child of the Light

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: **“O Christ, The Word Incarnate”** *Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748)*

❖ ALTAR FLOWERS for today are given TO THE GLORY OF GOD and IN LOVING MEMORY of my parents Neil & Dorothy Colestock and my husband Mike by Cheryl Gumper.



*Worship Ministers: The Reverend Sarah Hurlbert; The Rev. Dcn. Melissa Congleton
Julie Baglien, Organist; Christy Randall, vocalist;
Barney Rudolph, 1st Reader; Loren Swanson; 2nd Reader & acolyte; Sue Hammett, Intercessor
Special thanks again go to our tech team for their faithfulness & expertise!*

The hymns for today are from *The Hymnal 1982*

Opening Hymn: #574 “Before Thy Throne ”

1 Before thy throne, O God, we kneel:
give us a conscience quick to feel,
a ready mind to understand
the meaning of thy chastening hand;
whate'er the pain and shame may be,
bring us, O Father, nearer thee.

2 Search out our hearts and make us true;
help us to give to all their due.
From love of pleasure, lust of gold,
from sins which make the heart grow cold,
wean us and train us with thy rod;
teach us to know our faults, O God.

3 For sins of heedless word and deed,
for pride ambitions to succeed,
for crafty trade and subtle snare
to catch the simple unaware,
for lives bereft of purpose high,
forgive, forgive, O Lord, we cry.

4 Let the fierce fires which burn and try,
our inmost spirits purify:
consume the ill; purge out the shame;
O God, be with us in the flame;
a newborn people may we rise,
more pure, more true, more nobly wise.

Words: *William Boyd Carpenter, 1841-1918*
Music: *Dimitri S. Bortniansky, 1751-1825*

Communion Hymn: #632 “O Christ, The Word Incarnate”

1 O Christ, the Word Incarnate,
O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth, unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky;
we praise thee for the radiance
that from the scripture's page,
a lantern to our footsteps,
shines on from age to age.

2 The Church from our dear Master
received the word divine,
and still that light is lifted
o'er all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass
that o'er life's surging sea,
mid mists and rocks and quicksands,
still guides, O Christ, to thee.

3 O make thy Church, dear Savior,
a lamp of purest gold,
to bear before the nations
thy true light as of old;
O teach thy wandering pilgrims
by this their path to trace,
till, clouds and darkness ended,
they see thee face to face.

Words: *William Walsham How, 1823-1897*
Music: *Munich; Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847*



Closing Hymn: #490

“I Want To Walk as a Child of the Light”

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus,
God sent the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

In Him, there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike,
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father.

In Him, there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike,
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race
We shall know the joy of Jesus.

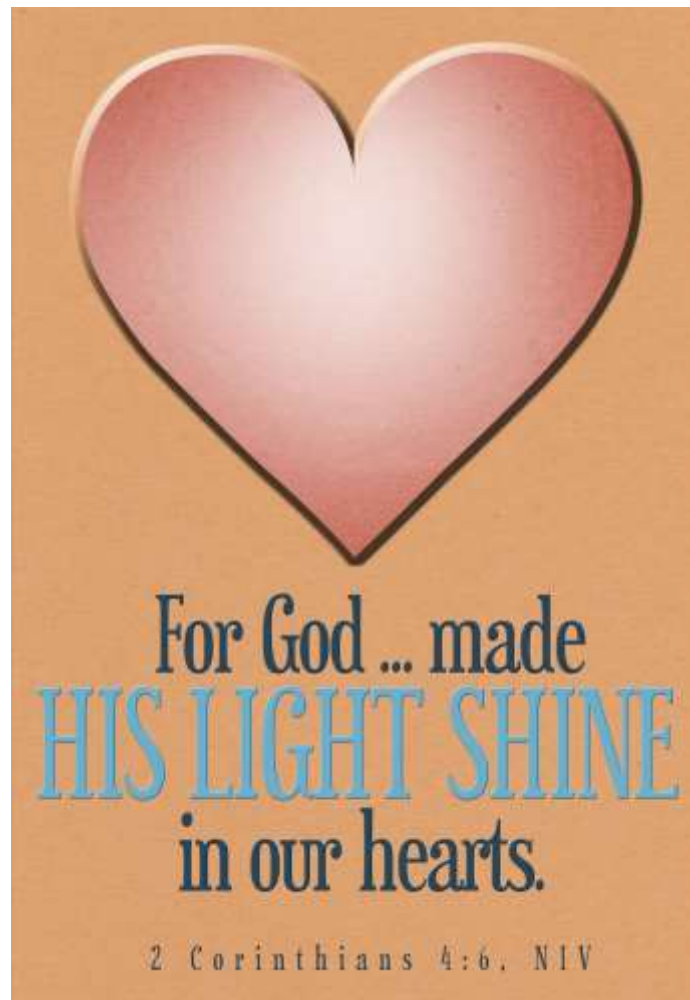
In Him, there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike,
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Words & Music *Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934*



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St. Paul's Episcopal Church
309 S. Jackson St.
Jackson, MI 49201
Phone: 517-787-3370
Email: church@stpauljxmi.org
Website: www.stpauljxmi.org
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