

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

January 24, 2016

Scriptural Meditation

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. I Corinthians 12:12-13

~Gathering the Family of God~

The Peal of Our Church Bell

Welcome and Greeting One Another with the Peace of Christ

***Peace**

One: Today our reading from 1st Corinthians says, “Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” None of us is more important or more valued by God than another. Let us remember that God loves us so much that He sent His only Son, that we too should love one another.

All: Let us love one another, since love comes from God.

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you!

Let us rejoice in our place in the body of Christ by turning to one another and passing the peace of Christ.

Prelude *All Are Welcome* arr.by Mark Hayes

Call to Worship

One: We each have many gifts to offer in service to God.

All: Some will be teachers; others preachers; some will be capable leaders, others will be skillful workers; some will be those who have visions of all possibilities; others will find ways to make those visions a reality; some will develop ministries of peace and justice; others will seek to change unjust systems.

One: Each person here has been blessed by God.

All: Lord, help us to use those blessings to help others. Amen.

Prayer of Invocation

*** Gathering Song** *Let Us Build a House/All Are Welcome* #301

*** Prayer of Reconciliation**

Let us remain standing and express ourselves to God.

All: Spirit of forgiveness and grace, you know when we have failed to hear your word or live your love. Forgive us. Open our ears to hear and our hearts to love. Spirit of mercy and kindness you know when we have harmed the community with our strife and our disagreements. Forgive us. Guide us into unity and selflessness, that our church might be a true body of Christ, that we might be faithful disciples of your Son. Spirit of truth and righteousness, speak to us always, move through our lives and through our church, that our lives and our ministry might tell of your glory and display your handiwork. In trust and gratitude, we pray. Amen.

***A Time for Contemplation** (a private time for you and God)

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

One: The Spirit of God is upon us. God has called us to bring good news and liberation to the poor, to the marginalized, and to all who are in need anywhere.

God’s joy is our strength.

Through God we can do all things.

God’s Spirit surrounds us with forgiveness and love.

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

***Gloria Patri**

581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.**

God’s Word for Little Ears

Melissa Harris

~Hearing God’s Word~

Prayer for Understanding God’s Word

All: Guide us, O God, by Your Word and Spirit, that in Your light we may see light, and in Your truth find freedom, and in Your will discover Your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

page 436

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

In This Very Room

by Ron and Carol Harris

In this very room there's quite enough love for one like me,
And in this very room there's quite enough joy for one like me,
And there's quite enough hope and quite enough power to chase away any gloom,
For Jesus, Lord Jesus ... is in this very room.
And in this very room there's quite enough love for all of us,
And in this very room there's quite enough joy for all of us,
And there's quite enough hope and quite enough power to chase away any gloom,
For Jesus, Lord Jesus ... is in this very room.
In this very room there's quite enough love for all the world,
And in this very room there's quite enough joy for all the world,
And there's quite enough hope and quite enough power to chase away any gloom,
For Jesus, Lord Jesus ... is in this very room.

New Testament Epistle

Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians 12:12-31a

page 174

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Lesson

Luke 4:14-21

page 61

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

We Are The Body of Christ!

Rev. Sam Roethemeyer

~Responding to God's Word~

***Affirmation of Faith**

Let us stand and affirm our faith.

All: I refuse to believe that we are unable to influence the events which surround us.

I refuse to believe that we are so bound to racism and war, that peace, brotherhood and sisterhood are not possible.

I believe there is an urgent need for people to overcome oppression and violence, without resorting to violence and oppression.

I believe that we need to discover a way to live together in peace, a way which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of this way is love.

I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality.

I believe that right temporarily defeated is stronger than evil triumphant.

I believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits.

I believe that what self-centered people have torn down, other-centered people can build up.

By the goodness of God at work within people, I believe that brokenness can be healed. "And the lion and the lamb shall lie down together, and everyone will sit under their own vine and fig tree, and none shall be afraid."

[An Affirmation Based on the Writings of Dr. Martin Luther King]

Invitation to Become a Joyful Giver

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings & Friendship Pad

Please take a moment to sign your name and contact information in the pew pad.

Offertory

In This Very Room

arr. by F. Bock

***Doxology**

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow (# 606)

**All: 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. A-men.**

Tune: Old Hundredth LM, Genevan Psalter 1551, Public Domain.

Prayers of the People followed by The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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.

Sung Prayer Response

(adapted from *Kum ba Yah* # 472)

v.1) **Come by here, my Lord, come by here!
Come by here, my Lord, come by here!
Come by here, my Lord, come by here!
O Lord, come by here!**

v. 2) **Someone needs you, Lord, come by here!
Someone needs you, Lord, come by here!
Someone needs you, Lord, come by here!
O Lord, come by here!**

Text and Melody: African-American Spiritual, Public Domain.

~Going Forth to Serve God~

Life in Our Church Community

***Song of Going Forth**

Live Into Hope

772

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Trumpet Tune

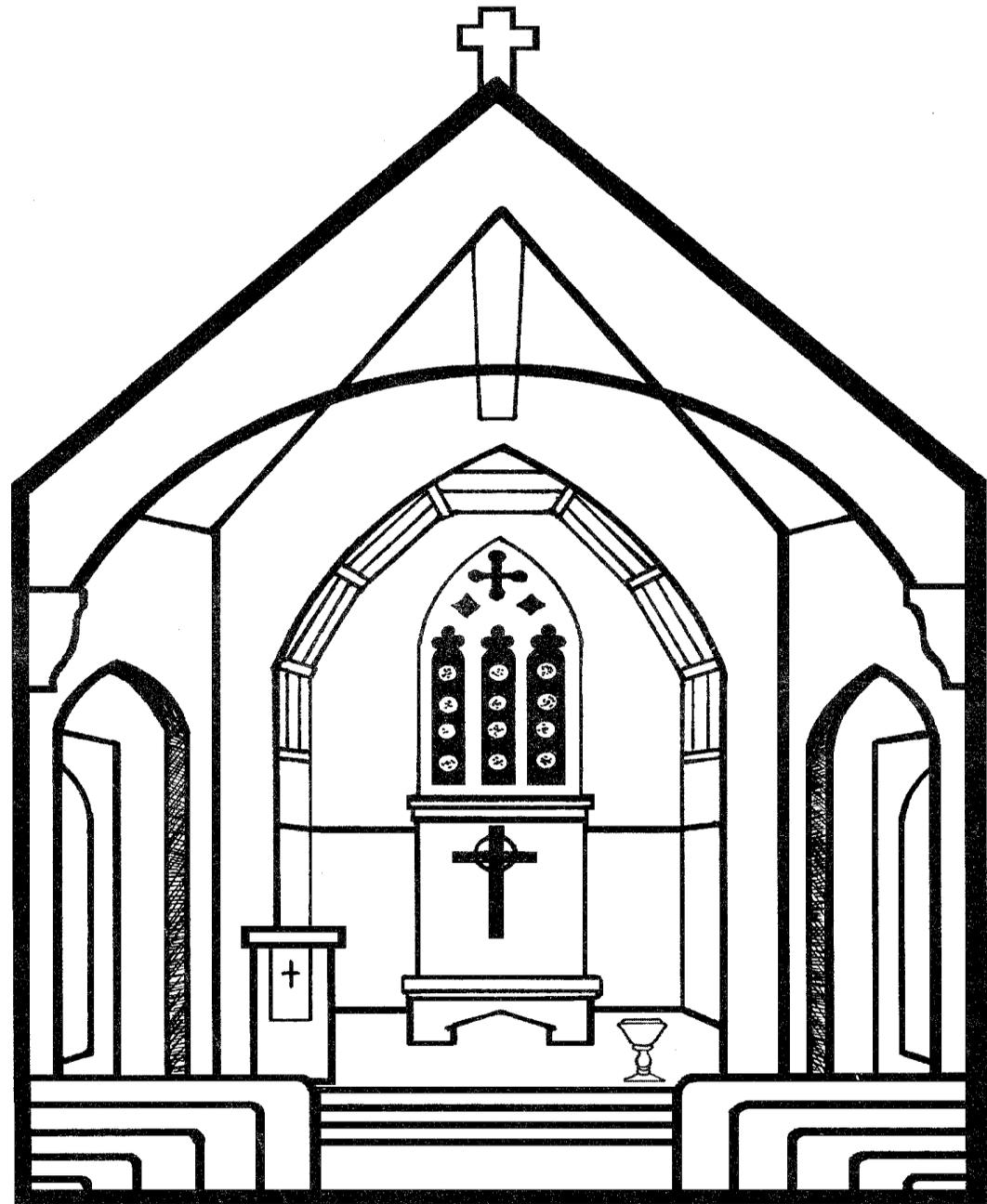
by M. Greene

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*Please stand, if you are able.

Electronic aid for the hearing impaired is available from the usher.

Music printed and recorded for congregational use only under CCLI # 11373529



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