

WELCOME TO THIS JOINT SERVICE OF

EPIPHANY ANGLICAN & COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020

For over a decade, Epiphany Anglican Church has been worshipping in the sanctuary of Covenant Presbyterian Church. The two congregations represent different branches of the Protestant Reformation, different denominations, different styles of worship, and different historical backgrounds. Nevertheless, we all belong to the one Body of Christ. As an expression of that reality, we began worshipping together over a half-dozen years ago for Thanksgiving, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunrise, and periodically at other times. Many of these services included shared meals where we have come to know one another, enjoy each other, and love one another. We have also engaged in service together and created a time capsule together. By living into the truth of our belonging to the same Body, we have come to experience the joy of that reality.

It seemed natural, then, when the spread of the pandemic required us to cease worshipping in the sanctuary at Covenant and celebrating Holy Communion, that we would discover Christ at work knitting us together as community in new ways. These joint worship services do not negate our distinctive lives, histories, or belonging to different denominations of these two congregations. When Covenant's campus is again opened, the two congregations will resume their own services. Still, this time of quarantine gives us an opportunity to demonstrate the truth of our oneness in Christ that is greater than our distinctiveness.

As with nearly everything related to this pandemic, this is an experiment. We will do some things well and stumble through others. Some of us will miss the full expression of our congregation's voice in each worship service. Some of us will struggle with the weekly changes in style and leadership. Those things are natural. Still, let us use this time to be amazed and awe-struck about how God is at work in the midst of a frightening crisis to do a new thing. Then may we join in heartfelt worship, a spirit of adventure, and an expectant openness to how God will lead us to grow and serve in new ways each day.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMNS

"On Eagle's Wings" No. 43, v1-2
"How Great Thou Art" No. 625, v1, 3

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in his shadow for life,
say to the Lord: "My refuge, my Rock in whom I trust!"

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear:
under his wings, your refuge, his faithfulness your shield.

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

OPENING SENTENCES

Presider: Rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and relents from punishing. (Joel 2: 13.)

I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before you, and am no more worthy to be called your son. (Lk 19. 18, 19.)

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. (Psalm 51. 17)

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8, 9)

Dearly beloved brethren, the Scripture moves us, in sundry places, to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloak them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought, at all times, humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me;

GENERAL CONFESSION AND REMISSION OF SINS

Scott Simpson

All: ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father; we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare them, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

Presider: **ALMIGHTY** God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness, and live; and has given power, and commandment, to his ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins: He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him, which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure, and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *"How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord"* No. 432, v1

How clear is our vocation, Lord, when once we heed your call to live according to your word and daily learn, refreshed, restored, that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Chad Bosse

THE COLLECT

Presider: Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; Hear our prayers, O God of mercy, and show forth your mighty arm in our time of need; rekindle a spirit of hope in the lives of your people, and deepen our faith in your presence among us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen

THE LESSONS

First Reading:	1 Samuel 16:1-13
The Psalm:	Psalm 23
Second Reading	Ephesians 5:1-14
The Gospel:	John 9:1-13, 28-41

SERMON

Father Cleo Baso

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Presider: Let us profess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed

All: I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit: The holy catholic church; The Communion of Saints: The Forgiveness of sins: The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

"Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness" No. 314, 1, 2, 3, 5

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

(Refrain) Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice. **(Refrain)**

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. **(Refrain)**

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come. **(Refrain)**

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

The Collect for Peace.

Reader: **OGOD**, who are the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom stands our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom; Defend us your humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Collect for Grace.

Reader: **O LORD**, our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who has safely brought us to the beginning of this day; defend us in the same with your mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by your governance, to do always what is righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Collect for Those in Authority.

Reader: **O LORD**, our heavenly Father, the high and mighty, King of kings, Lord of lords, the only Ruler of princes, who from your throne behold all the dwellers upon earth; Most heartily we beseech you with your favor to behold and bless your servants, the President of the United States and all others in authority; and so replenish them with the grace of your Holy Spirit, that they may always incline to your will, and walk in your way; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Presider: Hear our prayers in this time of fear and anxiety: Lift up our drooping spirits, renew our hope and give us your courage and patience in the face of uncertainty. Enkindle in us a strong faith; bring an end to this pandemic, restore the sick to health and guide the endeavors of researchers and health care workers. In all things may we always give praise and honor to God, the Father of all families,

through Christ, his Son, our Savior, by the power of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us" No. 187, v. 1-3

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.

In your pleasant pastures feed us; for our use your fold prepare.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.

We are yours: in love befriend us; be the guardian of our way.

Keep your flock: from sin defend us; seek us when we go astray.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.

You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;

You have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.

FINAL BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Presider: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom every family in heaven and earth is named, grant you to be strengthened with might by his Holy Spirit, that, Christ dwelling in your hearts by faith, you may be filled with all the fullness of God; and may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us always. Amen!

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE