



Authentic Living
Fifth Sunday of Epiphany
February 5, 2023

MEDITATION

*“We have to dare to be ourselves, however
frightening or strange
that self may prove to be.”
—May Sarton*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

P: And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **All: And also with you.**

PRELUDE

“Winter Morning”

Chester Nordman

CALL TO WORSHIP

Linda Thomas, Deacon

L: We are called to bring a new understanding of God: that God so loves the world.

All: We are the salt of the earth.

L: We are called to bring a new hope in God: that God gives us new life.

All: We are the light of the world.

L: We are called to follow the commandments and the law.

All: The Law of God is to love God and to love one another.

L: Come, let us be the salt of the earth, the light of the world.

All: Come, let us love one another with the love of God. Let us join together in our love of God to worship and follow Jesus.

SONG OF CELEBRATION

“Rejoice, Rejoice” 2x

Insert

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Linda Thomas, Deacon

All: Almighty God, you have called us to bring out the best in the world around us, to be bold in our faith, to share your love with those around us. We have failed your command. We choose conflict. We choose laziness. We choose excuses. Forgive us for rejecting the identity that you offer us freely, for rejecting the work of your Holy Spirit in our hearts.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Rev. Christina Williams

Leader: Even when we fail, even when we are not perfect, God still claims us. God still calls us by name. God still places God's Spirit upon us.

All: We are known, loved, and forgiven. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

"God is Here! As We Your People Meet"

Black 70

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 58:1-12

Linda Thomas, Deacon

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Matthew 5:13-20

Rev. Christina Williams

L: The Word of God for the people of God. **All: Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

"Authentic Living"

Rev. Christina Williams

RESPONSIVE HYMN

"You Are the Salt for the Earth, O People"

Black 181

PASTORAL PRAYER AND JOY & CONCERNS

After the pastoral prayer, you are invited to share your joys and concerns. When names are spoken out loud, all are invited to respond, "O Lord, hear our prayers."

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 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 forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC “Tranquil Moment” Leféburet-Wély arr. Paxton

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love had done:
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One Amen.

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

O God, you bless us in so many areas of our lives. Help us have eyes to see and hearts to understand the depth of your love and blessing. Today, we give out of that blessedness, dedicating ourselves to lives of justice and love, giving all that we are, and all that we have to bring about your beloved community, here and now. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

SONG OF INVITATION “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” Black 347

INVITATION & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF BLESSING

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

With grateful hearts we praise you, O God, for the great love you offer us in the gift of Christ. Through sacred memory Christ has come to us through this meal to feed and nourish us in our time of need and in our longing for your nearness. Strengthen us by your grace so that we might walk more closely with you. Increase our love for all our neighbors through Christ our Savior. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** “This Little Light of Mine” vs 1, 2, 3, 1 Black 524

BENEDICTION

May our love be like salt—flavorful and worthwhile.
May our lives be a light to those living in darkness.
May our churches be beacons of hope in hard times.
May Christ's light shine on all those around us.

POSTLUDE

“Processional for the New Year”

George Blake

**Stand in body or spirit as you are able.*

Our worship has ended, and our service has begun.

Ministering to us today

Linda Thomas, Deacon and Rev. Christina Williams will be leading us in worship today. We are grateful to Libby Lannon for providing the music and to Faith Duffy, our technical staff for today. A big thank you to Carolee Packard for offering the hospitality of coffee and conversation. Thank you for ministering to us in these ways.

Music covered under One License # A-728849