

February 13, 2022 – 6th Sunday after Epiphany

Prelude

Ringing of the Bell

Greeting

Opening Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 180 - "Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit" is truly connected to today's Gospel. In part it says, "Blessed are the meek, the patient, the clean in spirit, those who trust the promise and those who believe without seeing."

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Blessed are those who trust in God, who delight to meditate on God's law.

Congregation: We long to hear the Word of God and let the Word shape our lives.

Liturgist: Blessed are all who seek the realm of God, who hunger to find meaning in their lives.

Congregation: We intend to give our best to our Creator, bearing fruit in all we say and do.

Liturgist: Blessed are the ones who serve God with joy, who risk all they have in faithfulness and hope.

Congregation: We come now to worship and find new life, to receive healing and empowerment for our journey.

Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 313 - "Like a Tree beside the Waters" is connected to today's first reading. James Martin, a Wisconsin UCC Pastor, wrote this hymn in 1993. It speaks of blessing the congregation and closes with "By the hope of timeless promise guide your church upon the Way."

Confession of Sin

Sovereign God, we confess that we have chased after wealth and temporal security while neglecting matters of the spirit. We put our trust in things and in sinners' empty promises. We even deceive ourselves, shaping our words and actions to please the crowd. We have doubted the resurrection, surrendering to a sense of futility and skepticism. Turn us around, God, so we can learn to trust you and find strength in giving of ourselves. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Gloria Patri

Old Testament Lesson – Jeremiah 17:5-10 – Jeremiah tells the people to not rely on "mere mortals" for their strength and wisdom because this would blind them to the offer of divine assistance. Turning their back on God would place them in a desolate wilderness – both spiritually and literally. Jeremiah also reminds them that God alone searches the heart and examines the mind & God will treat us accordingly.

Hymn of Praise (Recorded) – In honor of our Sunday School children returning this week, and an eye toward Valentines day, this week’s Hymn of Praise is “I’ve Got the Joy”, (as in Down in my Heart), courtesy of Worship House Kids.

Children’s Time

Epistle Lesson – 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 – For Paul, belief in the resurrection was the focal point of the Christian faith because if Christ is not raised, then humanity is still in bondage to sin and death.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Lord’s Prayer

Offering

Offertory - NCH 52 - Today’s Offertory is a fantasy on “There Is a Name I Love to Hear.” Also entitled “O How I Love Jesus,” this hymn is symbolic of the 6th Sunday of Epiphany!

Doxology

Gospel Lesson – Luke 6:17-26 - This discourse is sometimes called the “Sermon on the Plain” because Jesus came down and stood at a level place. The people came out to hear him and be healed. Christ then talks about both the blessings for the poor and the woes for the rich.

Sermon

Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 179 - This hymn is also suggested for the 6th Sunday of Epiphany. “We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness” uses harmonies by Johann Sebastian Bach and uses a text by Dosia Carlson. This text was inspired by a sermon given by Harold Wilke during the International Year of Persons with Disabilities in 1983.

Benediction

Postlude