

## **February 20, 2022 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

### **Prelude**

### **Ringling of the Bell**

### **Greeting**

**Opening Hymn** (Instrumental) - NCH 541 - "They Asked, 'Who's My Neighbor?'" and it speaks to the spirit of today's Gospel. It opens with the title question and Jesus answers, "It's anyone who has a need, yes, anyone who has a need."

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Call to Worship**

**Liturgist:** Come near to one another and to our God. Be still before the one who fulfills our heart's desires.

**Congregation:** This is a time for meeting and greeting. This is the hour for quieting life's stresses and worries.

**Liturgist:** Wait patiently, for God will be revealed to us. God is our refuge in whom we trust.

**Congregation:** We believe God is here and will be known by us. Our faith nourishes us as we rest in God's care.

**Liturgist:** We are here to receive life in all its abundance. God is providing for us and has a purpose for us.

**Congregation:** God raises us up and sends us forth. Surely God will help us wherever we go.

**Hymn** (Instrumental) - "Your Ways Are Not Our Own" is not only connected to today's Gospel, but is also linked to this, the seventh Sunday of Epiphany. It closes with "Keep us from judgments hard and cruel, that we may dwell with you."

### **Confession of Sin**

Kind God, we have sinned against you. We have judged and condemned those whose actions offend us. We hesitate to forgive our enemies or make allowances for the behavior of those less fortunate than ourselves. We confess that we do not pray regularly for our friends, much less for our enemies. Our giving is motivated by self-interest as much as by thankfulness and compassion. We admit our failures and ask once more for pardon and renewal, in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

### **Gloria Patri** (Instrumental)

**Old Testament Lesson** – Genesis 45:3-11, 15– Joseph reveals to his brothers who he is. It is a story about forgiveness and trusting in God's will.

**Hymn of Praise** (Recorded) - First Choir has sung "The First Song of Isaiah" by Jack Noble White in previous years. This is a YouTube from an Open & Affirming UCC church in Crystal Lake, IL doing it via Zoom during the pandemic.

### **Children's Sermon**

**Epistle Lesson** – 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50– This chapter dwells on the Resurrection and questions surrounding it. In today's section, we meet the inquisitiveness of the Corinthians. In spite of all they were taught, they still asked – "how?"

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

#### **Lord's Prayer**

#### **Offering**

**Offertory** - 603 - "Giver of Live, Where'er They Be" reflects the spirit of today's Gospel and says "All souls you call, both here and there, do rest within your sheltering care; one providence alike they share."

#### **Doxology**

**Gospel Lesson** – Luke 6:27-38– Jesus tells the disciples that they must love their enemies and do good to those who hurt them.

### **Sermon**

**Hymn** (Instrumental) - NCH 590 - "Spirit of Jesus, If I Love My Neighbor" was written by Brian Wren. It speaks that one should open their mind to better understand both their friend and enemy.

### **Benediction**

### **Postlude**