

February 4, 2024  
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

*(Please stand in body and/or spirit)*

**OFFERING RESPONSE**      *Accept, O God, the Gifts*      **Blue Chalice Hymnal, #379**

(Tune: Ellacombe)

*Accept, O God, the gifts we bring of spirit and of clay.  
Transform them into blessings on those we serve today.  
Rekindle deep within us all passion to fulfill  
The ministry disciples have, empowered to do your will.*

*(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*All people: Creator of heaven and earth, you shower the earth with rain, nourish the land with sunshine and bless your people with goodness. Great is your faithfulness! Receive the gifts we bring before you this day, that they may touch the world with gladness and bring support to those in need. Amen.*

**HYMN**      *Great is Thy Faithfulness*      **Blue Chalice Hymnal, #86**

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: Though our lives often seem overwhelming,  
in God, we shall mount up with wings like eagles.

**Congregation: Though our responsibilities weigh us down,  
in Christ, we shall run and not be weary.**

Pastor: Though injustice and discord sap our strength,

*All people: in the Spirit, we shall walk and not faint.  
Amen.*

**POSTLUDE**

References

- All liturgy (except the Call to Confession) is from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024. Copyright © 2023 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission. The Assurance of Forgiveness and Prayer of Dedication were adapted by Pastor Laura Baker on January 17, 2024.
- The Call to Confession is from the The Worship Sourcebook. Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. Grand Rapids. 2004. Pg.85.
- The Offering Invitation is a strong adaptation of an Offering Prayer from Enter Every Trembling Heart: Prayers for Christian Worship by John Killinger. Abingdon Press: Nashville. 2003. Pg. 61.

**PREWORSHIP MUSIC**

**GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*A prayerful meditation for during the Prelude*

*Psalm 148 proclaims: "Those who trust God will rise up with wings like eagles."  
What does this mean to me?*

**PRELUDE**

**CANDLELIGHTING**

*(Please stand in body and/or spirit)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** – Based on Psalm 147 and Isaiah 40)

Pastor: Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
Has it not been told to you from the beginning?

**Congregation: The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the creator of heaven and earth.**

Pastor: God sits above the circle of the earth  
and stretches out the heavens like a curtain.

**Congregation: Those who wait for the Lord  
shall mount up with wings like eagles.**

Pastor: They shall run and not be weary.  
They shall walk and not faint.

*All people: How good it is to sing praises to our God.*

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

*All people: Everlasting God, you stretch the sky over our heads like a canopy filled with twinkling lights. Scarcely do the stems of our lives take root before the wind carries us away like stubble. Yet, you care for us – healing the brokenhearted, gathering the outcast, lifting the downtrodden, while casting the wicked to the ground. Renew our strength this day, O God, that we may mount up with wings like eagles. Amen.*

**HYMN**      *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*      **Blue Chalice Hymnal, #25**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Pastor: Sisters and brothers in Christ, we cannot come before God unless we are first honest with ourselves about who we are, about the mistakes we make, and about how well or poorly we care for others. In this spirit, let us offer our prayers before God.

**Mr. Kevin Crone**

**Acolyte**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Based on Isaiah 40, Psalm 147 and Mark 1)

*All people: Holy God, even in our pursuit of safety and security, we yearn to seek justice for the poor and to defend the downtrodden from the privilege of the powerful. Give us the heart of Jesus, that we may care for the sick and rescue the perishing. Give us the spirit of Christ, that we may spend time in prayer and keep your path before our feet. Give us the love of your Son, that we may be instruments of your peace. Amen.*

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS** (Based on Psalm 147)

Pastor: God showers the earth with rain, gives animals their food, and offers blessings to those who walk in the paths of righteousness.

*All people: We will sing praises to the Lord and rest secure in God's blessings. Amen.*

**PRAISE HYMN** *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* **Blue Chalice Hymnal, #25**

(Verse 5, only)

*Praise to the Lord! O let all of earth's peoples and races -  
all that hath life and breath, give thanks for manifold graces.*

*Let the AMEN sound from God's people again. Gladly forever sing praises!*

**PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Pastor: The One who lifts the lowly and brings down the mighty offers us a peace that passes all understanding. Claim the promise of God's peace as you share greeting in Christ's name. The peace of Christ be with you.

*All people: And, also with you.*

*(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)*

**JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"**

**HEBREW READING**

**Isaiah 40:21-31**

**RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING**

**Psalm 147:1-11, 20c**

Liturgist: Praise the LORD!

How good it is to sing praises to our God,  
for God is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

**Congregation: The LORD builds up Jerusalem  
and gathers the outcasts of Israel.**

Liturgist: God heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.

**Congregation: God determines the number of the stars  
and gives to all of them their names.**

Liturgist: Great is our Lord and abundant in power.  
God's understanding is beyond measure.

**Congregation: The LORD lifts up the downtrodden  
and casts the wicked to the ground.**

Liturgist: Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving.  
Make melody to our God on the lyre.

**Congregation: God covers the heavens with clouds,  
prepares rain for the earth,  
makes grass grow on the hills.**

Liturgist: God gives to the animals their food  
and to the young ravens when they cry.

**Congregation: God's delight is not in the strength of the horse  
nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner.**

Liturgist: But the LORD takes pleasure in those who stand in awe -  
in those who hope in God's steadfast love.

*All people: Praise the LORD!*

**GOSPEL READING**

**Mark 1:21-28**

**HYMN**

*On Eagle's Wings*

**Blue Chalice Hymnal, #77**

**SERMON**

**Rev. Laura Baker**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*All people: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.*

**ANTHEM**

*Blest are They Whose Spirit's Long* (Hopson)

**Chancel Choir**

**OFFERING INVITATION**

Liturgist: In this setting, our hearts become full of Christ's Spirit, and we are reminded of the many blessings that constitute our daily lives. In this moment, we have an opportunity to return a portion of those blessings as a way of saying, "Thank you, God" and to bring healing and hope to those in need. To our offering, let us add a song and prayer.