

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**  
**January 31, 2021**  
**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

*While in-person Worship services are suspended, Montgomery Presbyterian Church will be recording services. The following is an order of service that you can use to follow along with the recorded service, or use to read and reflect on your own. The service is posted on the church's Facebook page and [on YouTube](#), and will be linked to the MPC website, [www.mpchurch.net](http://www.mpchurch.net). Thank you for your cooperation and patience during this challenging time.*

**PRELUDE**     *I Will Come to You*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Elder for February: Pam Koester, 332-8810
- Deacon for February: Lois Silber, 791-1498
- Congregational Meeting on January 31, 2021 at noon; you should have received meeting information by email

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

God comes into a world filled with uncertainties and darkness.  
God seeks out the voids of belief and conviction.  
God embraces the wounded and broken.  
God knocks down the walls of division and strife.  
God is the candle shining in the darkness of our days.  
God is the light of our lives.  
God is the one who makes all things new.  
Praise be to God, now and forevermore!

**PRAYER**

Almighty God, Light from Light,  
who commands the universe and all that is made,  
your Word is the power that makes whole what is broken,  
the force of good, the food of peace.  
Teach us now as you taught in the synagogue.  
Heal us now so that in all we say and do,  
The freedom we have in you may be for others, too;  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

The One who pardons, heals, and strengthens all who repent calls us to name our failings and our hopes. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy and all-powerful God, who commands all spirits, comforts those in distress, and casts out destructive forces, we confess that we are unable to do your will.

We protect what is familiar, and reject what is unknown. We admire those with courage but excuse ourselves when we falter from the truth. We forget that you are always with us, and that with you all things are possible.

Forgive us, lead us, make us new. Remove our desire to heed false prophets, and show us your way; in the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Silence is kept*

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The God who made you and knows your every thought hears you now and forgives you all your sin. You have been redeemed through Jesus Christ, God's Son, our Savior, who is Alpha and Omega. Thanks be to God.

### **HYMN**

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

182 GtG

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest.  
Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."

I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad.  
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give  
the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live."

I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream.  
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;  
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk till traveling days are done.

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Speak to us your word, O God, that we may hear Jesus' call to be his disciples. Amen.

**FIRST READING***Psalm 111*

Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the works of the LORD,  
studied by all who delight in them.

Full of honor and majesty is his work,  
and his righteousness endures forever.

He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;  
the LORD is gracious and merciful.

He provides food for those who fear him;  
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

He has shown his people the power of his works,  
in giving them the heritage of the nations.

The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
all his precepts are trustworthy.

They are established forever and ever,  
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

He sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is his name.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all those who practice it have a good understanding.

His praise endures forever.

The Word of God for the people of God!

**Thanks be to God!**

**SPECIAL MUSIC***There Is a Balm in Gilead***SECOND READING***Mark 1:21-28*

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

## MESSAGE

Rev. Ben Shaw

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*The Apostles' Creed*

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 Ghost, 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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

... And now hear as we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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 debts  
as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## BLESSING AND CHARGE

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all this day, and unto your life eternal. Amen.

**POSTLUDE**     *Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us*