

Everybody's Church

First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham

Sunday, January 21, 2024, 8:30am, Third Sunday after Epiphany

Vision Statement

As Everybody's Church we commit ourselves to serving Christ by cultivating mission, inclusion and community.

Inclusion Statement

As Everybody's Church we strive to be a faithful, open and inclusive community. We welcome the full participation of all people of any ability, gender identity, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or any other life circumstance.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Lou Nyiri

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise.

Many: Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory, share your love, and worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Let us worship God!

†HYMN 12

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from one another. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another. We allow the past to hold us captive. In your loving-kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin. Fulfill the promises of our baptism so that we may rise to new life and live together in grace.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

†OUR RESPONSE 581

"Glory Be to the Father"

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.

†When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or in spirit.

Please join in reading those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

Hymntune: ST. DENIO

Confession acknowledges the reality of sin in our personal and corporate lives. This practice relieves us from the burden of sin and reminds us of the promise of God's forgiveness and grace sealed in our baptism.

We are an intentionally inclusive congregation and value the richness of worshiping with all God's people. There are times in the sanctuary when shouts or other loud noises may occur. We accept these without judgment, unless they are signs of distress in need of attention.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: Saving God, source of our calling, your Word is full of power and glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that we may receive your grace and live as your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Many: **Holy One, giver of all light, lift our hearts and minds to Christ that we would hear your word for us this day.**

All: **Amen.**

FIRST TESTAMENT READING

Proverbs 16:23-24

One: The word of the Lord.

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

SECOND TESTAMENT READING

Ephesians 4:25-32

One: The word of the Lord.

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

Please follow along with the reading on page 599 of the Old Testament in your Pew Bible.

Please follow along with the reading on page 194 of the New Testament in your Pew Bible.

SERMON

“What Does the World Need Now?”

Rev. Lou Nyiri

“Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.” - Proverbs 16:24

MEDITATION

“Psalm 42”

Kelly

Beth Lackey, Soloist

Members and guests, please sign the Fellowship Pads to let us know of your presence with us.

All that we have is a gift from God. In gratitude, we return a portion of those blessings to the work of God in the church.

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: Why do we give thanks and praise before this Table?

People: **We give thanks for God’s work of creation, liberation, and salvation.**

Leader: ... who forever sing to the glory of Your name..

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, Heav - en and earth are
full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, - ho -
san - na in the high - est.

“Holy, Holy” Land of Rest,
Words and Music: Richard
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A prayer of thanksgiving for the ministry of Jesus, offered by the pastor.

Leader: Why do we eat bread at this Table?

People: On the night before He died, Jesus took bread. After giving thanks He broke it, gave it to His disciples, and said, “Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Leader: Why do we drink from the cup at this Table?

People: The same night Jesus took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Leader: What do we remember at this Table?

People: We remember God’s gracious love for us, Christ’s death and resurrection for us, and the Spirit’s tender care for us.

Leader: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

A prayer calling on the Holy Spirit, followed by prayers of thanksgiving, intercession, and supplication.

All: 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.

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

All persons are invited to come forward and partake first of the bread, and then the cup in order to be strengthened by Christ's presence and power in the sacrament. All the communion wafers are gluten-free.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

†HYMN 761 "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

†BENEDICTION

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

Andrew Herbruck, Director of Music Ministries, is playing the service.

The chancel flowers today are given by Terry and Cindy Lanzen in loving memory of their parents, Joseph and Dorothy Lanzen, and sister and brother-in-law, Carroll and John Thomson.

Visitors, thank you for joining us today; please sign the Fellowship Pad or use this QR code to register your attendance:



Many Ways to Give at FPC

To contribute online visit the giving tab (using the QR code) or go to www.everybodyschurch.org.



Text "GIVE" to



248-600-4919

Hymntune: BEECHER

Welcome in Christ's name to First Presbyterian Church! You are welcome here just as you are at whatever place in your spiritual journey that you find yourself. If you have any questions about who we are, what we believe, or what we do, please ask one of our elders or pastors. They will be pleased to visit with you. Please know that you are invited to join us for coffee and goodies following the service in Calvin Hall.