

# SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

January 31, 2021

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME & COMMUNITY SHARING

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Come! Let us give thanks to the Lord with whole hearts.

**Reverence for God is the beginning of wisdom.**

Glory be to the One whose wonders are to be remembered.

**Reverence for God is the beginning of wisdom.**

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

**Reverence for God is the beginning of wisdom.**

Come! Let us worship God with joy!

## HYMN

“Morning has Broken”

No. 469

1 Morning has broken  
Like the first morning,  
Blackbird has spoken  
Like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing!  
Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing  
Fresh from the Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall  
Sunlit from Heaven,  
Like the first dewfall  
On the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness  
Of the wet garden,  
Sprung in completeness  
Where his feet pass.

3 Mine is the sunlight,  
Mine is the morning,  
Born of the one light  
Eden saw play.  
Praise with elation,  
Praise every morning,  
God's re-creation  
Of the new day!

## 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 God, lover of all, who comforts those in distress and casts out destructive forces, we confess we are unable to do your will. We seek 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 and make us new. Heal us of our fear, and show us your way; in the name of the One God, Holy Mystery, creator and redeemer of us all. Amen.**

## SILENT CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

## SHARING GOD'S GIFTS

The Lord says: Do not cling to the things of this world, or seek security in what will pass away. Instead give of yourselves and your possessions out of love for God and neighbor. Let us give with joy.

*You may mail your offering to the church office, or you may give online through our website, [cazpres.org](http://cazpres.org).*

## DOXOLOGY

No. 592

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

For Earth, which you have molded, for creatures and animals, plants, water, air, and fire, for Jesus who died and rose again, for the breath of life, we give you thanks, O God. Let these gifts be used for good wherever there is need, in the name of all that you have first given us, especially Jesus our Lord. Amen.

## HYMN                    “Help Us Accept Each Other”                    No. 358

1 Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe  
We are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.

2 Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,  
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

3 Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved  
in living situations to do the truth in love;  
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.

4 Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,  
who hunger for acceptance, for justice, and for bread,  
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;  
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, your people call out for understanding. Bring to our yearning hearts and minds the truth of your Word; in Jesus' name. Amen.

## GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

<sup>21</sup> They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup> They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup> Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup> 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.” <sup>25</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup> And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup> They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He <sup>[a]</sup> commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup> At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

**NEW TESTAMENT:** First Corinthians 8:1-13

**8** Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup> Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup> but anyone who loves God is known by him.

<sup>4</sup> Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” <sup>5</sup> Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup> yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

<sup>7</sup> It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup> “Food will not bring us close to God.”<sup>[a]</sup> We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup> But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup> For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup> So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>12</sup> But when you thus sin against members of your family,<sup>[a]</sup> and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling,<sup>[a]</sup> I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them<sup>[a]</sup> to fall.

**SERMON**

“The Uses of Knowledge”

**HYMN**

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

No. 422

1 God, whose giving knows no ending,  
From your rich and endless store:  
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,  
Costly cross, grave's shattered door,  
Gifted by You, we turn to You,  
Off'ring up ourselves in praise;  
Thankful song shall rise forever,  
Gracious donor of our days.

2 Skills and time are ours for pressing  
Toward the goals of Christ, Your Son:  
All at peace in health and freedom,  
Races joined, the Church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor,  
Lest we strive for self alone;  
Born with talents, make us servants  
Fit to answer at Your throne.

3 Treasure, too, You have entrusted,  
Gain through pow'rs Your grace conferred;  
Ours to use for home and kindred,  
And to spread the gospel word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing,  
As we heed Christ's ageless call,  
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming,  
Serving You by loving all.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

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