



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 17, 2021

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Our God, we confess to settling – settling for the obvious – the easy – the superficial – settling for not just unnoticed but unacknowledged contradictions in the very character of God.

We confess of not looking beyond the comfortable harmony that masks a deeper discord. We confess to prioritizing harmony and thus making difficult the noticing and receiving of the gifts of discord. Guide us through the difficult, the discomfoting, the inconvenient, toward the truth.

This we pray in the name of Jesus, whose own way was difficult, discomfoting, inconvenient, and more true than anything we can know, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

P: Hear Paul's words when he writes: "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price." Christ mercifully paid the price for our sin. Through him we may approach God with our temples made clean. Dearly Beloved, believe the Good News!

M: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Dearly Beloved, believe the Good News!**

***Gloria Patri**

(Creatorex)

**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.**

Scripture From the Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

³ You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.

⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.

¹⁷ How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end^[a]—I am still with you.

Anthem

“Shout to the Lord”

(Mark Hayes)

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like You.
All of my days I want to praise the wonders of Your
mighty love; My comfort, my shelter,
tower of refuge and strength, let ev'ry breath, all that I am
never cease to worship You.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing power and majesty, praise
to the King; Mountains bow down, and the seas will roar at the
sound of Your name. I sing for joy at the work
of Your hands, forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing: Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam, thou silver moon with softer
gleam, O praise Him,
Alleluia! Shout to the Lord!
Alleluia!

Scripture

From the Gospels: John 1:43-50

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip

called you.”⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”⁵⁰ Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.”

Pastoral Prayer

Lord’s Prayer

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.

Offertory Invitation

God does not require sacrifices and burnt offerings, but in our delight to do the will of God we bring our best in thanksgiving and praise. We rejoice in the abundant gifts of God, which enable us to share. Let us generously support our mutual efforts to be faithful to the One who is faithful to us.

Offertory

“Only God”

(Mary McDonald)

Only God can move a mountain; only God can calm the sea.

Only God can heal a wounded spirit; Only God, only God.

Only God can hear my heart’s cry; only God, my sin atone.

Only God can give us calm assurance, only God, only God!

God Almighty, most Holy wise God; You are the power and the glory,

O God, our God!

Only God can be our refuge; only God can be our strength.

Only God will stand as our Defender, only God, only God!

God is the power; only God in majesty!

Only God will reign as King forever, only God, Only God!

Scripture From the History of the Old Testament: 1 Samuel 3:1-20

3 Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

² At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³ the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴ Then the LORD called, “Samuel! Samuel!”^[a] and he said, “Here I am!” ⁵ and ran to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. ⁶ The LORD called again, “Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” ⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸ The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go,

lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰ Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” ¹¹ Then the LORD said to Samuel, “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹² On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³ For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God,^[b] and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴ Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.”

¹⁵ Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶ But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.” ¹⁷ Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” ¹⁸ So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.”

¹⁹ As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

Sermon “Could God Be Calling Me?” Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Hymn

“Here I Am, Lord”

(see next page)

Benediction

Response

Postlude

“Festive Trumpet Tune”

(David German)

Thought for the Day

*Beyond apparent truth lie deep truths that
confront even the prejudice of the Biblical writers and translators.*

Today’s Worship Leaders:

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Robert Pettus

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dobin Park

Thanks to all the musicians and to Michael Sullivan and Dobin Park for assisting
with filming and to Dobin Park for film editing.

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69 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am, Lord

G Am D G C G D
Leader or All

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

G Em C Am7 D G

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est

Am D G C G D

made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

G Em C Am7 C/G D D7

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain
All G C G D G C G D G

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you

Am7 G Am7 D G C G C

call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you

G C G D G Am7 D7 G Am7 G

lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

The stanzas here need to be understood as representing the voice of God, while the refrain (based on Isaiah 6:8) is the faithful human response to God's call. This becomes clearer if a leader or small group sings the stanzas, with the congregation joining on the refrain.