

## Service of Worship

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 31, 2016

10:30 AM

Today we step back from our individual concerns and reflect on our unity as a congregation and our unity as part of the greater Body of Christ. Unity does not imply uniformity, but rather an appreciation of the value of oneness in Christ without regard to our diverse experiences, ethnicity, opinions, abilities, age or gender.

In each bulletin a piece of paper is available for individuals to write down hurts, people/areas difficult to forgive; those in whom reconciliation is needed. Later in the service all will be invited to come forward and place those pieces of paper in the baptismal font where the paper will dissolve. There will also be a pitcher of water available for any who wish to pour water over their hands as an extra sign of being washed clean. Afterwards we will gather around the sides of the sanctuary for our congregational prayer.

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\*those who are able, please stand.

## GATHER AND PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE**                      *Fanfare*                      Purcell

### CHIMES

**INTROIT # 112**    *Holy Ground*

## THE PEOPLE OF GOD GATHER

### CALL TO WORSHIP—from Psalm 95:6-7; 133

One: How very good and pleasant it is  
when kindred live together in unity!  
It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron,  
running down over the collar of his robes.

One: It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion.  
For there the LORD ordained his blessing,  
life forevermore.

Come, let us all worship and bow down together,

**All: let us kneel together before the LORD, our  
maker. For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.**

**\*HYMN # 586**      *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

### VISUAL/AUDIO PRESENTATION                      *How Often?*

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

Matthew 18:21-22

*(silent reflection)*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Let us pray responsively)*

One: Lord Jesus Christ, you were able to command us to love one another because you lived and breathed love in all you said and did.

**All: Forgive us when we substitute ideas and words about love for its practice in our daily lives.**

One: Lord Jesus Christ, you have shown us that love can be patient and kind; that genuine love is not envious, boastful, arrogant or rude.

**All: Forgive us for being so influenced by the noise of our age that we fail to hear your call to love others as you love us.**

*(silent reflection)*

One: Lord Jesus Christ, realign our lives and our hearts to your love.

**All: May faith, hope and love dwell within us, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

#### \*WORDS OF GOD'S ENDURING LOVE

One: Friends, believe the joyful news that in Jesus Christ we are loved and forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

#### \*MUSICAL RESPONSE

#### *We Are Forgiven*

Musical notation for 'We Are Forgiven' in G major, 3/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: 'We are for-giv-en. We are for-giv-en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. We are for-giv-en. We are for-giv-en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.' The chords are: G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, Dsus, D, G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, D, G.

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#### PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

**The Lord's Prayer** *(in unison, Hymnal page 775)*

#### GOD'S WORD BOTH ANCIENT AND NEW

Gospel John 17:20-24 NT pg. 111  
New Testament 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 NT pg. 175

#### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

*(Children through second grade may go to the nursery.)*

#### ANTHEM #526

*The Gift of Love*

#### SERMON

#### VISUAL/AUDIO PRESENTATION

*Open My Eyes*

by Jesse Manibusan

#### GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

#### CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER *(insert)*

#### OFFERING

#### Offertory Anthem

*We Are Walking*  
*(English and Siyahamba)*

#### \*Response *(insert)*

*For the Life You Have Given*

#### \*Prayer of Dedication *(let us pray together . . .)*

**Loving God, here and now we bring our gifts to you and to the church. We ask you to receive our gifts for ministry and service. But more, receive our love and with our love and your divine love, may we keep on building your new earth here as it is in heaven. In our Master's name we pray. Amen.**

#### GOD'S PEOPLE DEPART TO SERVE

#### \*HYMN #442 *(English only)*

*We Are Walking*

#### \*BENEDICTION & CHIMES

#### POSTLUDE

*Trumpet Tune in C Major*

Purcell

## CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

God of love and unity, we pray for our church, your church, the body of Christ on earth.

Forgive us for the times when we have allowed personal preferences to become more important than Christ's message of love; forgive us for the times when we have been intolerant and overcritical of one another—forgive us for our judgmental attitudes.

Forgive us for wounding Christ's body again and again and causing you grief.

Cleanse us so that we may put aside distrust and truly embrace all our sisters and brothers.

Fill our hearts with your love so that can accept differences and learn from each other with humility.

Let every decision and action to be fruit of our shared love for you and in unity beneath your canopy of love and peace. Amen.

## THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

*You are invited to share a sign of peace with others.*

## \*Musical Response

## *For the Life You Have Given*

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in 4/4 time and the key of B-flat major. The lyrics are: "For the life that you have giv - en, for the love in Christ made known, with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these gifts that are your own: here we of - fer, Lord, our prais - es; heart and mind and strength we bring; give us grace to love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing."

Words: Carl P. Daw Jr., 1987. Music: Leavitt's Christina Lyre, 1830/31. Text ©1990 Hope Pub. Co. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net, License # A-725159.)

**Worship Service**  
**Participants**

***Ushers and Greeters***  
the Pedersen family

***Worship Leader***  
Joanne Cincotta

***Acolytes***  
Justin Dermott,  
Kenian Ulrich

***Nursery Volunteers***  
Kevin Cappy,  
Molly Ulrich

***Coffee Hour***  
Carol Costell Corbin,  
Kelly Settineri

***Attendance***  
January 24 - not recorded

**Life in the Parish**  
**Week of January 31**

**TODAY – January 31**  
*Last day to order sub sandwiches  
from Youth Group*  
10:30 am – Worship service

**MONDAY – February 1**  
7:30 pm – Al-Anon meets in  
RFR

**TUESDAY – February 2**  
2:00 pm – Bridge group  
7:00 pm – Homer Brass  
rehearsal

**WEDNESDAY – February 3**  
9:30 am – Committee on  
Authorized Ministry meets

**THURSDAY – February 4**  
10:00 am – RFR in use

**SUNDAY – February 7**  
*Souper Bowl Sunday*  
*Sub Sandwiches Pick-up*  
10:30 am – Worship service  
11:45 am – Christian Education  
Ministry Committee meets  
12:00 pm – Stephen Ministry  
meets in the board room

## NOTES AND NOTICES

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The Youth Group is taking orders for Sub Sandwiches for pick-up on Super Bowl Sunday, February 7. Today is the last day to order.

This year's **Souper Bowl of Caring** will be on **Sunday, February 7**. Youth Fellowship will be collecting either a can of soup or a 3 lb. canned ham to benefit The Methodist Church Food Pantry and/or \$1 bills to be given to the YWCA's Aid to Victims of Violence program. Soup pots will be located in the sanctuary to collect your donations.

**Christian Education Ministry** is once again **collecting cans and bottles**. They can be deposited in the bin in the kitchen or dropped off directly at Quick Stop (Rt. 281 Cortland, across from SUNY Cortland West Campus Apartments). At Quick Stop, the deposit can be added to our account, "Homer Congregational Church Youth."

The "findings" of the **Transition Team** are available in a report that can be found in Russell Fellowship Hall and at each entrance to the sanctuary. As explained last Sunday, the next phase will involve the entire congregation as we take the Team's recommendations and develop plans for implementation and preparation for a settled pastor.

The minutes of the December Deacons meeting and the combined meeting of the Deacons/Trustees are posted on the bulletin board in the Russell Fellowship Room.

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, February 9 at 5:30 pm** Wear your sneakers for the highly competitive pancake races! (Pancake racers from age 2 to 100 are welcome!) Come let us feast together as we prepare for the season of Lent!!!

We begin the Lenten season with an **Ash Wednesday service on February 10 at 7:00 pm**. Ashes have a long tradition in biblical and church traditions and during our gathering ashes will be available. Scriptures: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:1-10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21.