

**Third Sunday after Epiphany January 24, 2020**

**WELCOME & INSTRUCTION**

*Participants are invited to respond with the text in* **bold type.**

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,

we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,

for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters

and by your Word you created the world,

calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,

making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,

and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit,

and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise

through Jesus Christ our Lord

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### FIRST READING| Jonah 3:1-5, 10

1The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, 2“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” 3So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. 4Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” 5And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

  10When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 62:5-12

5For God alone I | wait in silence;

  truly, my hope | is in God.

**6God alone is my rock and | my salvation,**

**my stronghold, so that I shall nev- | er be shaken.**

 7In God is my deliverance | and my honor;

  God is my strong rock | and my refuge.

**8Put your trust in God al- | ways, O people,**

**pour out your hearts before the one who | is our refuge.**

 9Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate can- | not be trusted.

  Placed on the scales together they weigh even less | than a breath.

**10Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no | empty pride;**

**though wealth increase, set not your | heart upon it.**

 11God has spoken once, twice | have I heard it,

  that power be- | longs to God.

**12Steadfast love belongs to | you, O Lord,**

**for you repay all according | to their deeds.**

**THE GOSPEL| Mark 1:14-20**

God is with you! **And also with you!**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

14Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, 15and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

  16As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. 17And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” 18And immediately they left their nets and followed him. 19As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. 20Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MESSAGE|**

**BREAKOUT QUESTIONS**

* What do you hope for as a follower of Christ?
* When have you responded to God’s call in your life? What did that response look like?

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

*A brief silence.*

For the church throughout the world, especially our Bishops, Elizabeth and Bill, that all proclaim the good news of God’s reconciling love, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For skies and seas, for birds and fish, for favorable weather and clean water, and for the well-being of creation, that God raise up advocates and scientists to guide our care for all the earth. For hardened hearts unwilling to accept the reality of climate change and for those unwilling to participate in the restoration of our world for profit’s sake, may they be softened by reason, may they be transformed by the words of Jesus’ call to repent and believe the gospel, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For those who provide leadership in our cities and around the world, for our new President and Vice President. May this new administration be faithful and successful against the many challenges we face as a nation. May the prospect of unity among our people become a reality. May partisan rhetoric and demonization turn to collaboration and affirmation, help us all to see one another as equals in your kingdom, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For those who are sick, distressed, or grieving; for the outcast and all who await relief that in the midst of suffering, God’s peace and mercy surround them. We pray for Nancy, Rosella, Bob & Jeanette, Rob & Scott, Bessie-Lee and Buddy, Jim, our neighbors living with addiction, and for all who are battling COVID-19, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For our congregation and neighbors, for families big and small, biological and chosen, and for the organizations and groups that will return to this space soon enough, that God’s steadfast love serve as a model for all relationships and flourish in this community, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

We mourn the deaths of so many in recent months, the 702 Baltimoreans who have died from COVID-19, well over 2,000 Marylanders who died from drug and alcohol overdose this past year, and the 15 victims of homicide in Baltimore just this month. We know that more death is on the horizon and for some it comes too close. We pray for the bereaved. We pray for healing. We turn to you in thanksgiving for our ancestors in the faith whose lives serve as an example of gospel living, that they point us to salvation through Christ, and the promise of new life, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our sins,**

**as we forgive those**

**who sin against us;**

**save us from the time of trial,**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom,** **the power,**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Generosity Team Meeting - Thursday, January 28th**

**2020 Offering Statements** will be sent out in the coming week or so. Since the postal service has been experiencing extreme delays, please let Pastor Jim know if you should need a copy more urgently. [churchontheavenue@gmail.com](mailto:churchontheavenue@gmail.com)

**Ash Wednesday – February 17th**

In the spirit of adaptability, we will not be offering the imposition of Ashes this year. However, to mark the entrance into Lent, a service of repentance will be offered online at 7:00pm.

**Lenten Evening Prayer,** Wednesdays 7:00pm

Have you considered a Lenten discipline yet? Of course not, it was just Christmas! Well, fuhgetaboutit! Join us again for Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesdays in Lent. The musical service is contemplative and stirring. We will plan to gather online via the church website.

**Thank you** for your continued generosity and for sustaining our ministry during this strange and difficult time! You can provide offering or make a special gift at anytime through the church’s giving portal. Links can be found in the e-newsletter and on the church website at <http://www.churchontheavenuehampden.org.>

**BENEDICTION**

God is with you! **And also with you!**

May God bless you and keep you.

May God’s face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May God look upon you with favor and give you peace,

in the name of the Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**