

Order of Worship
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
9:30 am – February 4, 2024

Participating Live?

Text your prayer requests to 805-309-6867 before the end of the first hymn.

PRELUDE

Canzonetta: Andante from *Violin Concerto, Op. 35*
Mary Ellen Reedie, Violin; Kyle Hanks, Piano
Music: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Public Domain.

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Varre Cummins, liturgist

L: Come, rejoice and sing! God's love is showered over you this day.

P: We gather to praise God and celebrate God's presence with us.

L: God shows compassion to all who are weak and downtrodden.

P: Jesus Christ offers healing mercies to our troubled souls.

L: Praise be to God who has called us here.

P: Thanks be to God for God's eternal love. AMEN.

Nancy C. Townley <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/2322/worship-connection-february-4-2024>

OPENING HYMN

Lift Every Voice and Sing

UMH 519

Words: James Weldon Johnson, 1921. Public Domain.

Music: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921. Public Domain.

1. Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty;
let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.
2. Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path thru the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
3. God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 40: 21-31

Varre Cummins, liturgist

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT (Children and Youth come to the steps for a word from the pastor)

PREPARATION HYMN*On Eagle's Wings*

see insert

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1. You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in his shadow for life,
Say to the Lord, "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain: And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

2. The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear:
Under his wings, your refuge, his faithfulness your shield. [**Refrain**]

3. You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day;
Though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come. [**Refrain**]

MESSAGE

Pastor Cindy Huskey

MUSICAL RESPONSE*God Is Our Strength*

by Laura Farnell

VFUMC Chancel Choir; Clara Johnson, Director; Kyle Hanks, Piano

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

Powerful God, from the very beginning you blessed creation. You have loved and shielded your people through all joys and trials of life. We come to you this day, rejoicing in the many blessings you have given to us. Because you have been so generous with us, we offer these gifts and our hearts back to you. AMEN.

Nancy Townley, adapted

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

How can we look at this world and not sing of your praises, O God? The beauty and majesty of the world is overpowering! Yet we have a tendency to take all that you do for us for granted. We treat the world with callous indifference, using its resources carelessly and with little regard to the future. We insist on war as solutions for problems rather than peaceful striving. We turn our backs on people in need, the weak and downtrodden go unnoticed in our midst. We always believe that some one else will care for those in need. How foolish we are, O God! How ignorant we have become! You have given to us all that we need. You have blessed us with the witness of Jesus Christ who came so that we might learn how you would have us live, in honor and peace. Forgive us. Heal our hearts and spirits. Make us fully aware of all our blessings and our responsibilities. Give us again a spirit of joy in serving you. Help us be agents of peace and hope to others. For we offer this prayer in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Nancy C. Townley

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Jesus has come to heal our spirits and our souls. The demons of arrogance, indifference and apathy are being cast out. New life is offered to you in Jesus Christ.

We will rejoice and be Glad!

For God's love is poured out to you this day. **AMEN.**

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION (found on p. 17 of The United Methodist Hymnal)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Let us lift up our hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

... And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Sung: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth
are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one
who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

... As we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Sung: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

... All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Sung: Amen.

(UM Book of Worship, The Methodist Publishing House, ©1972)

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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. Amen.

***BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND RECEIVING OF THE ELEMENTS**

COMMUNION MUSIC

In Blessed Communion

by Michael Akers

VFUMC Bell Choir; Clara Johnson, director

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, , to give ourselves to others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

SENDING HYMN

My Life Flows On

TFWS 2212

Words and Music: Public Domain.

1. My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

Refrain: No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

2 Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing? **[Refrain]**

3. What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth. **[Refrain]**

4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing? **[Refrain]**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

To God Be the Glory
Kyle Hanks, Organ

arr. Victor C. Johnson

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Prayer Requests

Palmdale First UMC —Pastor Jim White

Palmdale First UMC—Pastor Jonathan Gentry

All those suffering from illness or loss of loved ones.

God Is Our Strength

Refrain:

We will not fear! Though the mountains fall and crumble into the sea!
We will not fear for God is our strength, and He will be with us through all we have to face,
So, we will not be afraid.

Though the oceans roar and foam with white and crashing waves,
Though the raging waters cause the very earth to shake,
Our God rules over everything. He is with us and so we sing,

Refrain

Come and see what the Lord has done and look for what the Lord is yet to do.
He who causes wars to cease, He will give His peace to you.
Our God rules over everything. He is with us and so we sing,

Refrain

He says, “Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be honored in the nations. I will be honored in the earth.”
He will be with us through all we have to face.
So, we will not be afraid!