

Order of Worship JANUARY 8, 2023

Meditation – 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Songs of Adoration – 2

Call to Worship – Psalm 146 (Responsive Reading)

L - Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

C - I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

L - Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

C - When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.

L - Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,

C - who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,

L - who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.

C - The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

L - The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

C - The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless,

L - but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

ALL - The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

Prayer of Adoration

Confession of Sin

L - God our Father, You sent Your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive Him fully.

C - Lord, have mercy.

L - Jesus our Savior, You were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of Your ways.

C - Christ, have mercy.

L - Spirit of Love, Your servant Mary responded joyfully to Your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.

C - Lord, have mercy.

(from the Book of Common Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; He will rejoice with gladness; He will quiet you by His love; He will exult over you with loud singing.

(Zephaniah 3:17)

Songs of Worship – 2

Offering and Doxology

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 53:7-12

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Reader: "The Word of the Lord"

Congregation: "Thanks Be to God"

Welcome / Announcements

Dismissal of Children to Children's Church

Song of Preparation – 1

Sermon Text – Matthew 5:10-12

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Sermon – "Persecution Brings Joy"

Song of Response – 1

Benediction