

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 21, 2024



"Follow me and I will make you fish for people."

Mark 1:17

Sunday, January 21, 2024
Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Tolling of the Bells

Prelude

Draw Us in The Spirit's Tether

Callahan

Call to Worship

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

*Opening Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Welcome & Announcements

Responsive Prayer of Invocation

One: Gather together, O people of God.
You were created for love and for wholeness.

**All: Our hope is in God, who is our rock and our salvation.
Our deliverance comes from God, who is a mighty rock.**

One: Gather in, wanderers and travelers.
Here there is a sanctuary of acceptance.

**All: We trust in you, O God, at all times;
we pour out our heart. You are a refuge for us.**

One: Gather together, light-bringers and curious-questioners.
Jesus desires all of who you are and how you got here.

**All: Power belongs to God, and steadfast love belongs to you, O Maker.
We trust in your teachings and the profit of your wisdom. Amen.**

(Psalm 62:5-12)

Passing of the Peace

One: "The Peace of Christ be with you."

All: And also with you!

Choir Anthem

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Rutter

Message for All Ages

Isaiah 7:10-17

Blessing

Sermon/Message

* *As the Spirit guides you, we encourage you to rise in body or spirit.*

*Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Prayers of the People

The 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.*

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

The Lord's My Shepherd

Held

Doxology

Each week, we sing and sign an inclusive Doxology (ASL).

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God for all that Love has done.

Creator, Christ, & Spirit one. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

Benediction

Postlude

Here I Am, Lord

Wagner

.. ——— ♡ ——— ..

Following the Closing Hymn, we encourage the congregation to remain risen, in body or spirit, to receive the Benediction, which is both blessing and commission. You may sit for the Choral Response and Postlude in quiet contemplation.

All are invited to the Parish Hall for coffee, tea, and snacks. We understand it can be difficult to step into a room of strangers. We hope, with every cup and cookie, we can deepen our connections and learn a little more about each other each week.

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Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Joachim Neander, 1650-1680

Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8.

"Stralsund Gesangbuch," 1665

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign - eth,
 3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de - fend thee;
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore him!

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal - va - tion!
 Shel-ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so gen - tly sus - tain - eth!
 Sure-ly his good-ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at - tend thee.
 All that hath life and breath, come now with prais-es be - fore him.

All ye who hear, Now to his tem - ple draw near;
 Hast thou not seen How thy de - sires e'er have been
 Pon - der a - new What the Al - might - y can do,
 Let the A - men Sound from his peo - ple a - gain:

Join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 Grant-ed in what he or - dain - eth?
 If with his love he be - friend thee.
 Glad - ly for aye we a - dore him. A - men.

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

23

Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;

there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.

There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;

there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

Of Huguenot Protestant ancestry, Frederick William Faber was influenced by the Oxford Movement and eventually became a Catholic priest. He wrote 150 hymns to correspond to the number of psalms.

Tune: IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.
Dutch melody
Arr. Julius Röntgen, 1906
Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1887; alt.

1 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, we fol - low in your way;
 2 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, we fol - low not with fear,
 3 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, till sin's fierce war shall cease,

loud rings your cry for jus - tice, your call for peace this day:
 for in each hu - man con - flict your words of strength we hear:
 and all your saints to - geth - er will sing a hymn of peace;

Through prayer - ful prep - a - ra - tion, your grace will make us strong,
 That when we serve with glad - ness, you will not let us fall,
 Then all in your do - min - ion will live with hearts set free,

to car - ry on the strug - gle to tri - umph o - ver wrong.
 our trust is in your prom - ise that love will con - quer all.
 to love and serve each oth - er for all e - ter - ni - ty.

At Andover Seminary, fellow students asked Ernest W. Shurtleff to write a hymn for their graduation. This is the result. Shurtleff became a Congregational minister and in his last years established churches in Europe and did relief work during World War I.

Tune: LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D.
 Henry T. Smart, 1836

Bulletin Reminders

After worship, Rev. Morisse is available for conversation in the Parish Hall.


THE LORD BLESS YOU & KEEP YOU

Rutter

The Lord bless you and keep you.

*The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you.*

*The Lord lift up the light of his countenance
upon you,
and give you peace.
Amen.*



SOLAR PROJECT UPDATE

Parking and Access Restrictions

Construction on the solar project is continuing this week, with most of the activity on the Sanctuary roof. Work on the Parish Hall part of the array has been completed, and the entire array may be finished as soon as next week. Due to the overhead work, safety dictates that both of the normal access doors to the Church office be blocked off during working hours. The staff/member parking area next to the Parish Hall kitchen, and the Parish Hall door leading to the courtyard are also temporarily closed. For access during the day, please use the main Parish Hall foyer entrance until the construction is complete, and the safety barriers are removed.

PRAYER DISCUSSION GROUP MEETS TODAY

How do we pray when we're feeling let down by God, or when we're upset by injustice, or when we are otherwise concerned about what is happening in our lives or in the rest of the world? How have people in the Bible expressed similar concerns to God? Come to the discussion group on prayer *TODAY* to examine prayers of lamentation in the Bible. Grab your coffee and join the discussion in the Parlor, beginning 20 minutes after the service. All are welcome!

BUDGET MEETING

Sunday, February 4

This year, we are streamlining the Budget approval process. There will be one Budget Meeting on Sunday, **February 4.**, with time to ask questions and propose amendments...a traditional congregational meeting. As is our custom, we will make 2024 Budget and 2023 Financial documents available ahead of time. If you have any questions, please reach out to Robert, Greg, or anyone from Church Council. The Church made several big decisions in 2023 that make the forecast for 2024 much improved from prior years.

Expanding the Circle

**The Framingham Interfaith Community invites
people of all ages and backgrounds to
An afternoon of Friendship & Service**

Sunday, February 25 | 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

We will gather at 2:00 p.m., in the Plymouth Church Parish Hall.
(87 Edgell Road, Framingham)

For the first hour, we will share in a conversation
led by **Lucia Panicella**, of *Jewish Family Services*.

Lucia and JFS have been at the center of our city's welcome to migrant families who have come seeking safety and hope. She will help us understand what is happening in Framingham and what is happening around the world.

At 3:00 p.m., we will enjoy refreshments and an opportunity to participate in a service project on-site in the Parish Hall—an opportunity to use our hands and our hearts to express our welcome and caring.

***Sponsored by Framingham Interfaith
Community Association, together with
Jewish Family Services***

