

JANUARY 31st, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Welcome and Announcements

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive):

Pastor: In Jesus' day the blind received their sight. May the Lord Jesus open our eyes so we can clearly see God's presence among us this morning.

People: In the time of Christ, the sick were healed in body and soul. May we find healing for our brokenness and pain during our time together.

Pastor: When Jesus walked upon the earth, the hungry were fed with Living Bread that nourished their souls. May our hunger to commune with God be satisfied during this time of devotion.

People: When our Savior ministered to others, he commanded the unclean spirits to depart and they fled in fear. May Jesus vanquish the powers of darkness that threaten to lead us away from God and the life of faith we have been called to.

Pastor: Let us worship the Lord and give God thanks and praise!

#39 *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison):

Lord Jesus, when we hear how you have authority over demons, our minds conjure up images of ugly red creatures with horns, pointed tails, holding a pitchfork. But what a demon looks like is not as important as the menace that demonic forces can pose to us and to the world. We know for certain that, whatever form it takes, the power of darkness is real; but we also know that your divine power is real, and is mightier by far. Therefore, dear Savior, we place our trust in you to help us resist temptation and to deliver us from evil when it tries to hitch itself to our lives. Be present with us now, we ask, and bless this time of worship so that our music, prayers, Scripture readings and contemplations will strengthen us to resist sinful influences when they come. We ask these things in your name, Lord Jesus, and thank you for teaching us this prayer:

#PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (Unison)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

#GLORIA PATRI (Unison):

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 and Mark 1:21-28

SERMON MESSAGE: *The Demon Who Hitched a Ride to Church* Rev. Gagnon

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Prayer Requests
Silent Prayer
Pastoral Prayer

BLESSING OF OUR OFFERINGS

#Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Thank you, gracious God, for the blessings you have poured out on us throughout our lives. Now we return a portion of those blessings to you and ask that you use them, and this church, to help bring about the good you want to achieve in the world. May our offerings proclaim the authority of Jesus Christ to the world in such a way that it will be received with jubilation. And may this act of giving increase our faith in you as a God who can, and one day will, totally vanquish demonic powers so that only peace, love and joy will remain. Amen.

#469 A Mighty Fortress is Our God (vs. 1 and 3)

BENEDICTION (Responsive):

Pastor: Thank God for times of worship like this. Even though we are not together in the sanctuary, they are still a blessing to us.

People: We are grateful for the opportunity to worship because it helps us grow stronger in faith, and resist the powers of darkness.

Pastor: After you leave this place, listen for Jesus' voice speaking with great power and authority.

People: With only a word from our Savior, unclean spirits flee. And one day Christ will return to vanquish evil forever and ever.

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

POSTLUDE

DISMISSAL