

Epiphany Sunday

Sunday, January 10, 2021 11:15 a.m.

Gathering Song

Announcements *Vicar Jason Christ, Director of Attract & Middle School Ministries*

Welcome *Rev. Dr. Charles E. Whited, Jr.*

Preparing for Worship (Stand)

Leader In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People Amen.

Leader Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. *Hebrews 10:22*

Leader Our help is in the name of the Lord,
People Who made heaven and earth. *Psalms 124:8*

Leader I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
People And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Psalms 32:5*

Confession and Absolution

Leader Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen. *(Silence for personal confession)*

Leader In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. *John 1:12, Philippians 1:6*

People Amen.

Opening Songs

Here I Am to Worship

Verse 1

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made
This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

Chorus

Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

Verse 2

King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

Bridge

I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross

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Good Good Father

Verse 1

I've heard a thousand stories
Of what they think You're like
But I've heard the tender whisper
Of love in the dead of night
You tell me that You're pleased
And that I'm never alone

Chorus

You're a Good Good Father
It's who You are
It's who You are
It's who You are
And I'm loved by You
It's who I am
It's who I am
It's who I am

Verse 2

I've seen many searching for answers
Far and wide
But I know we're all searching for answers
Only You provide
Because You know just what we need
Before we say a word *Chorus*

Scripture Readings *(Sit)*

Reader God speaks to us through the Old Testament: Isaiah 60:1–6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord.

Reader God speaks to us through the New Testament: Ephesians 1:3–14

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

Bridge

You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us *Repeat*

Verse 3

Love so undeniable I, I can hardly speak
Peace so unexplainable I, I can hardly think
As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still
Into love love love love *Chorus*

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(Stand)

Leader In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

People **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.** *Hebrews 1:1-2a*

Reader God speaks to us through the Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Leader This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to You, O Christ.** *(Sit)*

Children's Message *Sue Steege, Director of Transformation Ministries*

Message *Pretenders to the Throne* *Rev. Dr. Charles E. Whited, Jr.*

The Apostles' Creed *(Stand)*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. *(Sit)*

Offering

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Even Me

He knows my thoughts
The things that no one sees
He knows my heart
It's every broken piece
Somehow still I'm held by this one thing
And somehow still I'm held by this one thing

Yes, Jesus loves me
Even me, even me
I stand forgiven and free
Even me, even me

He knows my past
The choices I have made
When I have wandered
When I pushed away
Somehow still I'm held by this one thing
Somehow still I'm held by this one thing

Yes, Jesus loves me
Even me, even me
I stand forgiven and free
Even me, even me
Even me, yes even me
Nothing could ever stop this love
Nothing could ever take it away
My life was lost, His life He gave
Even to the grave, even to the grave
Even to the grave

Yes, Jesus loves me
Even me, even me
I stand forgiven and free
Even me, he loves even me

Yes, Jesus loves me
Even me, even me
I stand forgiven and free
Even me, he loves even me
Even me, he loves even me
Even me, even me

By Jason Ingram / Jonathan Lindley Smith / Adam Palmer / Matthew Hein / Stephanie Kulla
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The Lord's Prayer

People Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on Earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen.

Closing Song

Same Power

Verse 1

I can see the waters raging at my feet
I can feel the breath of those surrounding me
I can hear the sound of nations rising up
We will not be overtaken
We will not be overcome

Verse 2

I can walk down this dark and painful road
I can face ev'ry fear of the unknown
I can hear all God's children singing out
We will not be overtaken
We will not be overcome

Chorus

The same power that rose Jesus from the grave
The same power that commands the dead to wake
Lives in us lives in us
The same power that moves mountains when
He speaks
The same power that can calm a raging sea
Lives in us lives in us
He lives in us lives in us

Blessing

Sending Music

Unless noted otherwise, scripture passage came from the English Standard Version.

*Altar Flowers presented to the Glory of God in memory of Rich Gaffney
By Phil & Sue DePlato and Cheryl Lenihan.*

Verse 3

We have hope that His promises are true
In His strength there is nothing we can't do
Yes we know there are greater things in store
We will not be overtaken
We will not be overcome

Bridge

Greater is He that is living in me
He's conquered our enemy (oh)
No power of darkness
No weapon prevails
We stand here in victory oh *Repeat*

In victory yeah

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