

**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021 – 10:00 AM**

Congregational responses are in **bold** type.

**WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP**

The Prelude

Announcements

Joys and Concerns

**PRAISE**

Call to Worship

Leader: Be called to worship by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**People: We will rejoice in the story of Jesus whose graciousness abounds.**

Leader: Be called to worship by the love of God.

**People: We stand in awe of God who created us in love and loves us still.**

Leader: Be called to worship in the communion of the Holy Spirit.

**People: We rejoice that we have been called together.**

Confession

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, you were able to command us to love one another because you lived and breathed love in all you said and did.

**People: Forgive us when we substitute ideas and words about love for its practice in our daily lives.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, you have shown us that love can be patient and kind; that genuine love is not envious, boastful, arrogant or rude. Above all, you demonstrated that love can bear all things, hope all things and endure all things.

**People: Forgive us for being so influenced by the ‘noisy gongs’ and ‘clanging cymbals’ of our age that we fail to discern your call to love others as you love us.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us all in the knowledge that when our love has its source in you, it is indestructible by outward circumstances and influences.

**People: Realign our lives and our hearts to your love so that faith, hope and love dwell within us and our lives testify that the greatest of your gifts to us is truly the gift of love. Amen.**

Assurance

Hear the good news of God’s marvelous grace: While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. In him we are forgiven and made new, healed and made whole to be all that we are called to be. In joy receive God’s grace and be at peace. Thanks be to God.

Hymn:

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

#28, vs 1, 3, & 4

1 For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies.

**Refrain:**

God of all, to you we raise  
this, our hymn of grateful praise.

3 For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild, [Refrain]

4 For the good that love inspires,  
For a world where none exclude,  
For a faith that never tires,  
And for every heart renewed [Refrain]

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

New Testament Lesson: 1 Corinthians 13

The Gift of Love

**13** If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup> It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup> Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup> For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup> but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup> And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Message

*"The Gift of Love"*

Pastor Don Francois

Silent Prayer

Prayer

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 heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and 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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

### **WE PREPARE TO GO TO THE WORLD**

Closing Hymn:        *"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"*        #76

1 Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,  
The people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The service is ended, O now be extended  
The fruits of our worship in all who believe.  
The seed of the teaching,  
Receptive hearts reaching,  
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
God's love did invite us, and love shall unite us  
To work for God's realm and to answer the call.

2 With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living,  
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.  
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,  
Embracing God's children of each tribe and race.  
With Your grace You feed us,  
With Your light now lead us;  
Unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving  
Give honor to Christ and the name which we bear.

Benediction

Postlude