

Columbia Congregational Church

February 14, 2021

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

THE PRELUDE Bell Choir

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

As we prepare for worship, remember this is a time where we gather to share our faith, offer our prayers, and gather our hope. You are welcome to this place, where you are safe to come, and place where you are free to come, and a place that welcomes you as you are. Whether you are bringing our best selves or bringing our struggling selves. In our gathering we affirm that this day—and our being together—can make each of us braver, more compassionate, and wiser than when we woke up this morning. If you have come to us as a stranger, please know it is our intention to have you leave as a friend. Please reach out to myself or a deacon that we might come to know each other in a deeper way. Our contact information is available on our church website. But for time we are together in worship, settle into your pew, relax your spirit, quiet your mind, and make ready to receive the blessing God has prepared for you.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

THE CALL TO WORSHIP *(IN UNISON)*

Leader: In the midst of our darkness, Jesus brings holy light!

**People: Pierce our darkness; scatter the shadows of doubt and fear!
Bring us your light, O Lord.**

Leader: We seek Jesus' light but have long lived in the darkness.

People: We come into the shining presence of Jesus for healing and hope.

**ALL: Lord, our lives are ablaze with your love and healing power.
Praise be to you, O Christ! AMEN.**

HYMN OF PRAISE - "We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding" #182 NCH (V 1,2,3)

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| 1. We have come at Christ's own bidding
to this high and holy place,
where we wait with hope and longing
for some token of God's grace.
Here we pray for new assurance
that our faith is not in vain,
searching like those first disciples
for a sign both clear and plain. | Eyes and hearts behold with wonder
how the Law and Prophets meet:
Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,
stands transfigured and complete. |
| 2. Light breaks in upon our darkness,
splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word,
Moses and Elijah marvel
as the heavenly voice is heard. | 3. Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,
fearful lest our faith decline,
we like Peter find it tempting
to remain and build a shrine.
But true worship gives us courage
to proclaim what we profess,
that our daily lives may prove us
people of the God we bless. |

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & THE LORD'S PRAYER (sins)

Almighty God, giver of life, your light shines in our lives and your glory is revealed through your Son, Jesus Christ. Reveal his glory to us as you did to Peter, James, and John, that we may be filled with his power and our mouths may proclaim his presence forevermore. Amen.

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever
and ever. Amen.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE Bell Choir

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

A reading from the Gospel of Mark 9: 2-9

9:2 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, 9:3 and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. 9:4 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. 9:5 Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" 9:6 He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. 9:7 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" 9:8 Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus. 9:9 As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

SERMON **Rev. MaryAnn Purtil**

HYMN- "O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word" # 168 NCH vs 1 & 4

1. O radiant Christ, incarnate Word, eternal
love revealed in time:
come, make your home within our hearts,
that we may dwell in light sublime.

4. O Light of Nations, fill the earth; our faith and
hope and love renew. Come, lead the peoples to
your peace, as stars once led the way to you."

WE RESPOND TO GOD

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER
PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Invitation to the Offering (*in unison*)

We proclaim the gospel Christ with our mouths, in our actions, and through our lives. Let us offer up our lives to Christ, that in our lives we may be servants of Jesus Christ.

A SILENT PROMISE OF OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*in unison*)

Brave Savior, Gentle Redeemer, all that we have is yours, and all that we are is yours. In offering these tokens of our lives, may all that we do serve you to the glory of God. Accept them, we pray. Amen.

WE PREPARE TO GO TO THE WORLD

Hymn "Arise, Your Light is Come"

164

**1 Arise, your light has come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God
which shines on you today.**

**2 Arise, your light has come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.**

**3 Arise, your light has come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.**

**4 Arise, your light has come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing,
God's pow'r will make us strong**

BENEDICTION (IN UNISON)

May the light of Christ illuminate our path this day and every day. May our feet be sure and fleet as we bear the good news to all we encounter. Amen.

WE CARRY THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

THE POSTLUDE

The end of worship is the beginning of our service to God.

Go forth and serve God gladly.