

# **Columbia Congregational Church**

February 7, 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Holy Communion Sunday

## **WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP**

### **THE PRELUDE**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME**

### **THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

### **THE CALL TO WORSHIP (IN UNISON)**

**Everlasting God, from the very beginning You blessed creation. You have loved and shielded Your people through all joys and trials of life. We come to You this day, rejoicing in the many blessings You have given to us. We open our hearts again to hear Your word for us and to gather strength and joy for service in Your world. Be with us and bless us again, we pray. AMEN**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE - “We Sing to You, O God” #9 NCH vs 1,3,4**

**1. We sing to you, O God,  
the Rock who gave us birth,  
let our rejoicing sing  
your name in all the earth.  
To you, O God, let songs be raised,  
in joyful hymns, our feast of praise.**

**2. You bear us through the world,  
an eagle to her young,  
who rises on her wings  
and bears us toward the sun.  
We ride the vaults of light  
and air and trust in your unfailing care.**

**3. O God, eternal God, we  
hide within your wings,  
the everlasting arms  
to whom our praises ring.  
Your word is true, your way is  
just, you are the God in whom  
we trust.**

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

**God of love and healing, we gather today to hear the words of Your love through the stories of Jesus and his compassion. Open our hearts and spirits to receive Your healing spirit that we may bring that healing to others. We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray,**

**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**

### **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

#### **A reading from the Gospel of Mark 1: 29-39**

1:29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

1:30 Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once.

1:31 He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

1:32 That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons.

1:33 And the whole city was gathered around the door.

1:34 And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

1:35 In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.

1:36 And Simon and his companions hunted for him.

1:37 When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you."

1:38 He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do."

1:39 And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

**SERMON**

**Rev. MaryAnn Purtil**

# **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

## **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

### **PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**Gracious God, as a community of believers we pray to You and we confess that so often we succumb to the temptations of this world, turning deaf ears on the cries of those in distress and walking away from opportunities to give aid and comfort. Forgive our stubbornness and our selfishness. Give us hearts of compassion and spirits willing to serve You by serving others. In this moment of silence we offer You our private prayer of confession.**

### **SILENCE**

### **THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God's promise is to all:

**“Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”**

**With God's promise of grace and forgiveness given freely, we are forgiven, healed, and empowered through Jesus the Christ. Praise be to God! Amen.**

**HYMN OF PREPARATION - “*As We Gather at Your Table*” #332**

**1. As we gather at your table,  
as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence;  
let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story  
till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet  
how to make Love's victory known.**

**2. Turn our worship into witness  
in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us, Christ, your great compassion  
to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image  
in the world you died to save.**

**PRESENTATION OF THE ELEMENTS**

**BLESSING THE ELEMENTS**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING, in unison**

**Generous God, with gratitude for the gift of Your Son, Jesus, we offer our thanks for these gifts of bread and vine that refresh and renew us. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD**

**THE CHURCH AT PRAYER  
PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER**

**OFFERTORY  
A 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)**

**With awe and wonder we come before you, O God, and make promises of the gifts of time, talent and treasure. We trust You will guide their use according to Your will. Accept them, we pray. Amen.**

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

Hymn *“There’s a Spirit in the Air”*

#294 NCH  
*vs 1,5,7*

**1. There’s a spirit in the air, telling Christians everywhere:  
“Praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working in our world.”**

**5. When a stranger’s not alone, where the homeless find a home, praise  
the love that Christ revealed, living, working in our world.**

**7. There’s a Spirit in the air, calling people everywhere:  
praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working in our world**

### **BENEDICTION (IN UNISON)**

**Renewed by the power of God’s unconditional love and forgiveness;  
strengthened by the witness of Jesus to be of service to others, we go  
from this place rejoicing in the opportunities to serve others in Christ’s  
name. Go in peace and may the peace of God always dwell within you.  
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.**