



January 26, 2025 – Livestream  
Third Sunday After the Epiphany

GATHERING

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brandon Wallace

RECOGNITION OF FORMER CHURCH LEADERS

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

*God of Mercy, God of Grace*

arr. T.H. Jones

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The God of love has called us for this hour

**People: to sing with joyful hearts!**

Leader: The God of power has called us for this hour

**People: to serve with willing hands!**

Leader: Come and let us offer our lives for the cause of Christ.

**People: Alleluia! Amen!**

\*OPENING HYMN #578

*God of Love and God of Power*

***God of love and God of power, grant us in this burning hour  
grace to ask these gifts of thee, daring hearts and spirits free.  
God of love and God of power, thou hast called us for this hour.***

***We are not the first to be banished by our fears from thee;  
give us courage, let us hear heaven's trumpets ringing clear.  
God of love and God of power, thou hast called us for this hour.***

***All our lives belong to thee, thou our final loyalty;  
slaves are we when'er we share that devotion anywhere.  
God of love and God of power, thou hast called us for this hour.***

***God of love and God of power, make us worthy of this hour;  
off'ring lives if it's thy will, keeping free our spirits still.  
God of love and God of power, thou hast called us for this hour.***

OPENING PRAYER

**Almighty God,  
whose love governs the universe,  
strengthen our hands to do your work of justice,  
widen our hearts to share your gift of mercy,  
and open our eyes to see your vision of peace  
for all people and for the glory of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

ANTHEM

*Anthem of Dedication*

W. Martin

Whom shall we send? And who will go for us? Here am I, Lord, send me.

God is working his purpose out as year succeeds to year;  
God is working his purpose out and the time is drawing near;  
Nearer and nearer draws the time, the time that shall surely be,  
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.

What can we do to work God's work, to prosper and increase  
the brotherhood of all mankind, the reign of the Prince of Peace?  
What can we do to hasten the time, the time that shall surely be,  
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.

March we forth in the strength of God with the banner of Christ unfurled,  
that the light of the glorious gospel of truth may shine throughout the world;  
fight we the fight with sorrow and sin, to set their captives free,  
that the earth may be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.

Whom shall we send? And who will go for us? Here am I, Lord, send me.

\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE #750

Psalm 19

Response 1

**Response: *The law of God is just, reviving the soul.***

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God,  
and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

**People: Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge.**

Leader: There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

**People: yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.**

Leader: In them God has set a tent for the sun,  
which comes out like a bridegroom from his chamber,  
and runs its course with joy like a strong man.

**People: Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them;  
and there is nothing hid from its heat. [Response]**

Leader: The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;

**People: the testimony of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;**

Leader: the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;

**People: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;**

Leader: the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever;

**People: the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.**

Leader: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;

**People: sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. [Response]**

Leader: Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

**People: But who can understand one's own errors? Clear me from hidden faults.**

Leader: Also keep your servant from the insolent; let them not have dominion over me!

**People: Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.**

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. [Response]**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jacqueline Blackwell Leonard

First Lesson

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

<sup>1</sup>All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. <sup>2</sup>Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup>He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

<sup>5</sup>And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>6</sup>Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

<sup>8</sup>So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. <sup>9</sup>And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF PRAYER #2175

*Together We Serve*

***Together we serve, united by love,  
inviting God's world to the glorious feast.***

***We work and we pray through sorrow and joy,  
extending your love to the last and the least.***

***We seek to become a beacon of hope,  
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.  
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through  
until we see Christ in each person we meet.***

***We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor,  
the busy, the lonely, and all who need care.  
We offer a home to those who will come,  
our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.***

***Together, by grace, we witness and work,  
remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.  
Together we serve in Spirit and truth,  
remembering love is the strength of our song.***

## THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass 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.**

## MUSICAL RESPONSE #2176

*Make Me a Servant*

***Make me a servant, humble and meek,  
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.  
And may the prayer of my heart always be:  
Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today.***

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Take My Life*

W. Martin

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee.  
Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.

Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love;  
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.  
Take my will, and make it thine: it shall be no longer mine.

Take my heart; it is thine own: it shall be thy royal throne.  
Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Whom shall we send? And who will go for us?  
Here am I, Lord, send me.

## \*DOXOLOGY #94

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

## SECOND LESSON

Romans 12:1-8

<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, kindred, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by

the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and complete. <sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*A Do and a Don't*

Darren Cushman Wood

HYMN #399

*Take My Life, and Let It Be*

v. 1

***Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.***

***Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.***

***Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.***

***Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.***

CONSECRATION OF CHURCH LEADERS

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION #399

*Take My Life, and Let It Be*

v. 2-3

***Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.***

***Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee.***

***Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.***

***Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.***

***Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.***

***Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.***

***Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store.***

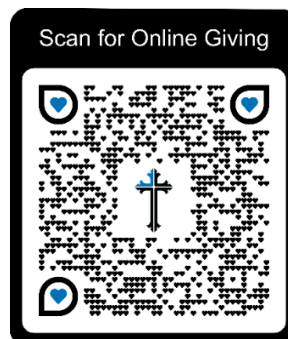
***Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.***

\*THE CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

*Festive Gloria*

A.D. Miller



**Upcoming Events:**

Exploring North New Member Classes  
Sundays, January 26, February 2, and February 9  
conference room (1<sup>st</sup> floor by elevator), 9:45 am

Scan to sign up for our newsletter:



**This week's worship  
leaders:**

Darren Cushman Wood  
*Senior Pastor*  
Brandon Wallace  
*Minister of Christian Education*  
Jacqueline Blackwell Leonard  
*Liturgist*  
John Hague, James Horton &  
Allen McCormack  
*Audio Visual*  
Mark Gilgallon  
*Music Director*  
Heather Hinton  
*Organist*

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Lyn Berkebile, Lay Delegate to AC

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