

Becoming the Beloved Community

Carter - Westminster United Presbyterian Church

Gathering of the People - Worshipping safely at home

January 31, 2021

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Gathering in God's Name

Greeting/Welcome/Announcements

PRELUDE: "I Will Come to You" David Haas
Lindsay Mecher, soloist

CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Mark 1: 21-28)

As a people and as a community of faith, together but virtual
we gather to learn more about how to be a follower of Jesus.

To listen, to pray, to be with God,

**because we know it is out of God's authority, it is out of God's love,
God's message, God's compassion that we live.**

Together, wherever we are, let us worship God today. *(adapted from Richard Bott)*

OPENING HYMN: "We Give Thee But Thine Own" GTG # 708

Time of Spiritual Centering: Confession and Forgiveness

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Holy God, we confess that we are an arrogant people – so full of "knowledge" that we hardly have any room for love. We confess that we too often we judge when we really need to listen. We confess that we too often push people away when you call us to welcome them into our communities. We confess that too often we think only about protecting ourselves when we are challenged to risk everything for others.

Lord, forgive us for being more concerned with "being right" than we are with "showing love." Forgive us for demanding uniformity when you call us to celebrate diversity. Guide us, Great God, to live according to your unconditional love. Teach us to see one another as sisters and brothers, that we may learn to live as one family. Lord, please hear our prayer. Amen.

(written by Amy Loving)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Word Proclaimed

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Mark 1: 21-28

SERMON "The Fight for Our Life"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

TIME FOR GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY "I Have the Joy" C-W Children's Choir

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Loving God,
you are never far from us. You are as close as our breathing.
We recognize you as the one who heals the wounded spirit
and gives new life to the broken hearted.
We offer these gifts to You, O God,
as a sign of our commitment to Your grace and authority.
Take us and use us and all that we have,
so that the Kingdom of Heaven will be realized on earth,
through Christ our Lord. Amen *(written by Richard J. Fairchild)*

Closing

CLOSING HYMN "Thy Word" GTG # 458

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Christians, We Have Met to Worship" HOLY MANNA
arr. Mark Hayes

Staying Home and Staying Safe

Assisting in Worship: Afua Akompong, Lindsay Mecher, Emily Crisp, The C-W Children's Choir (Zoe and David Nott, Isaac, Noah and Jonah Bakou, and Jacob Haag), George Radosavljevic, Pat Radosavljevic, Music Director; and the Reverend Steve Pierce.