**Sunday February 7, 2021**

**There He Prayed**

**Prelude**

**Words of Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Good people of the church, lift up your eyes and see.

**People:** (*Out loud, but muted)* **Have you not seen? Have you not heard? Our God greets us here.**

Leader: Good servants of the Most High, open your ears to hear.

**People:** (*Out loud, but muted)* **Have you not seen? Have you not heard? Our God meets us here.**

Leader: Good children of the light, open your hearts and know what it means to delight in God.  
**People:** (*Out loud, but muted)* **For we have seen, heard and known  
                 From the beginning to the end,  
                 Our God…is.**

**Opening Prayer Unison** (*Out loud, but muted)*

**Eternal God, Creator of the universe…and then some.  
 We call on you, you who greet us here.  
 We give you thanks for making it possible to worship together,  
 and to ponder your eternal mysteries.  
 Make us, creatures of this time and space,  
 ready collaborators with your endless grace**. **Amen.**

**Hymn #49: Ask Me What Great Thing I Know**

(*Please see separate attachment for the score)*

1) Ask me what great thing I know  
 that delights and stirs me so,  
 What the high reward I win,  
 whose the name I glory in:  
 Jesus Christ, the crucified.

2) Who defeats my fiercest foes?  
 Who consoles my saddest woes?  
 Who revives my fainting heart,  
 healing all that grief imparts?  
 Jesus Christ, the crucified.

3) Who is life in life to me?  
 Who the death of death will be?  
 Who holds all my days secure,  
 in God's heart where love is sure?  
 Jesus Christ, the crucified.

4) This is that great thing I know;  
 this delights and stirs me so:  
 Faith in Christ who died to save,  
 Christ who triumphed o'er the grave,  
 Jesus Christ, the crucified.

**Prayer of Confession Unison** (*Out loud, but muted)*

Leader: What do we hold and treasure most?

**People:** (*Out loud, but muted)* **Is it the promises of God?**

Leader: What captivates our attention?

**People:** (*Out loud, but muted)* **Is it the grace of God?**

Leader: God of mercy and grace:  
**People:** (*Out loud, but muted)* **We are vulnerable people who sometimes ignore the vulnerable. We are broken people who don’t always pay attention to the world’s brokenness.**

**Unison: Heal us, O God, to make us better healers.  
 Mend our rifts, that we might be better builders.  
 Cleanse our hearts, so we can clear out the damage of hurt and oppression.  
 We are yours, loving God. Help us to live and to know this better.**

*Silent Prayer*

**Assurance of Pardon**

Have you known?  Have you heard? Our God lifts us up on eagle’s wings.  
Strengthening us so that we won’t be weary. God is great in strength, mighty in power, and full of endless love for us all. **Amen.**

**Passing of the Peace**(unmute for Passing of the Peace)

Pastor: The Peace of Christ be with you

**People: And also with you!**

**Reading** Mike Crompton

**Isaiah 40:21-31 (NIV)**

40:21 Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?   
  
40:22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in;   
  
40:23 who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.   
  
40:24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.   
  
40:25 To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.   
  
40:26 Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.   
  
40:27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"?   
  
40:28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.   
  
40:29 He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.   
  
40:30 Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;  
  
40:31 but 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.

**Special Music**

**Gospel Reading**

**Mark 1:29-39 (NIV)**

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.

**Musical Interlude**

**Sermon: There He Prayed**

**Music for Meditation**

**Prayers of the People**(unmute yourself to offer a request, giving first names only, please)

**Hymn #508** Prayer Is the Soul’s Sincere Desire (verses 1 and 5)

(sung muted but together, Wei Der playing)

**Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, unuttered or expressed;  
 The motion of a hidden fire that trembles in the breast.**

**O Christ, by whom we come to God, the Life, the Truth, the Way,  
 The path of prayer you too have trod: Christ, teach us how to pray.**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord’s Prayer Unison** (*Out loud, but muted)*

**Offering Invitation**

All of us have our thresholds – places beyond which it can be so difficult to move. Giving takes so many shapes – but, like any spiritual discipline, the key is for that gift to grow. We grow in our knowledge of God, we grow in our faith. If we aren’t already, may we not seek to grow in our giving, as well? Let us ponder this growth, and may God shine God’s light across the threshold so that nothing can hold us back from this growth.

**Offering and Dedication Unison** (*Out loud, but muted)*

**God of all that is, all we have, all we are – we give.   
 We give these gifts as we reach across the thresholds of our concerns. We give these gifts, knowing that they will bless so much more in ripples we will never fully see or entirely understand. Through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Blessing and Benediction Unison** (*Out loud, but muted)*

**May God bless and keep us.**

**May God’s face shine through us.  
 And may the glorious Triune God  
 Protect and keep us.** **Amen.**