

**Sunday January 23, 2022
Power of the Spirit**

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: This day is holy to the Lord your God.

People: **Let us come ready to see, hear, and touch the Word of God.**

Leader: Do not mourn or weep, and do not be grieved.

People: **How can we be sad when we can experience God's Word
and know God's love through our worship together?**

Leader: The joy of the Lord is our strength.

People: **Let us come together to worship the God of joy, strength, and love.**

Opening Prayer Unison

**O God, who gives us strength when we feel weak,
we gather to hear your Word,
sing your songs,
and give you praise.**

**We know that you are always with us, and we are grateful.
Help us to live our lives in ways that show you are near.
Thank you for your presence and constant care for us —
in worship, and in each day of our lives. Amen.**

Hymn #273: Praise with Joy the World's Creator
(Please see separate attachment for the score)

Hymn Leader: Ken Littlefield

- 1) Praise with joy the world's Creator, God of justice, love, and peace,
Source and end of human knowledge, grace bestowing without cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory, power to rescue and release.

- 2) Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry, frees the captive, finds the lost,
Heals the sick, upsets religion, fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence – Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.
- 3) Praise the Spirit sent among us, liberating truth from pride,
Forging bonds where race or gender, age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure – foolishness none dare deride.
- 4) Praise the Maker, Christ, and Spirit, one God in Community,
Calling Christians to embody oneness and diversity.
Thus the world shall yet believe when shown Christ's vibrant unity.

Prayer of Confession **Unison**

**Loving God, we recall the times when your Word feels distant,
and when we forget how much you love us.
We let our egos take hold, and we treat others as threats to our sense of
self.
We forget your words of comfort, love, and care.
We forget to look to your Word for guidance.
We forget that you are our ultimate source of joy.
Forgive us, O God.**

Moments for Reflection and Silence

Assurance of Pardon

The Holy One's instruction is perfect, reviving one's very being.
God's laws are faithful, making naive people wise.
God's regulations are right, gladdening the heart.
God's commands are pure, giving light to the eyes.
Know that you are loved and forgiven.
Be renewed in God's fresh and enlivening presence.

Passing of the Peace

Pastor: The Peace of Christ be with you
People: **And also with you!**

Reading

David Alexander

Psalm 19:1-4,7-11,14 (NRSV)

¹ The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
² Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.
³ They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.
⁴ Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.
In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.
⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul.
The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.
⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right,
giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the LORD are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.
⁹ The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever.
The decrees of the LORD are firm,
and all of them are righteous.
¹⁰ They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the honeycomb.
¹¹ By them your servant is warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
¹⁴ May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight,
LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Special Music

Ken Littlefield

Gospel Reading

Luke 4:14-21 (NRSV)

¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of

the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

Musical Interlude

Sermon: Power of the Spirit

Music for Meditation

Prayers of the People

Hymn #510 Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You (verses 1, 2 and 4)

- 1) Grant us wisdom to perceive you, hearts awakened to receive you,
minds alert to thoughts that grieve you, God of mercy, hear us.
- 2) Grant us faithfulness in praying, strength to keep our souls from straying,
sense to cease from disobeying, God of mercy, hear us.
- 4) Grant us courage to proclaim you, Savior of our lives we name you!
May our actions never shame you; God of mercy, hear us.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer **Unison**

Offering Invitation

We share from what we have and from who we are
as a sign of our desire to bring good news
to the poor, the vulnerable, and those in crisis.
May these gifts bring light to those in need,
and put the joy of the Lord in their hearts.

Offering and Dedication Unison

**O God of all gifts, we join with Jesus in proclaiming the year of your favor.
Bless our gifts and bless us as we seek to bring joy and comfort to those
who are unknown to us,
and to those who are near and beloved. Amen.**

Benediction Unison

**Christ has no body but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which Christ looks compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which Christ walks to do good.
Yours are the hands through which Christ blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are Christ's
body.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.**