

Worship Service on Monday, January 23, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Welcome and Greeting God is good **all the time**. All the time **God is good**.

Question of the Day How much soup is “enough”?

***Call to Worship**

Come, all who have known gloom and anguish.

Come, all who have walked amid terrors of the night.

Sometimes we have felt forsaken by God.

Our losses can seem greater than we can bear.

God is our light and our salvation.

God is our stronghold; we need not fear.

Enemies lose their power when we look up to God.

We come now, seeking God’s face.

Come, behold the beauty of our God.

Come to find shelter in a day of trouble.

We will sing and make melody to God.

We will dare to lift up shouts of joy.

***Hymn** “How Great Is Our God”

***Prayer of Invocation**

God, illumine our minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed our eyes may see your kingdom, our ears may hear the call of Jesus, and our hearts may know the joy of your salvation. Amen.

Psalm 27 #758 *UMH* *Reading responsively; without sung response.*

Matthew 4:12-23 *New Revised Standard Version*

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles – the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea – for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Response: *The Word of God, for the people of God! Thanks be to God!*

Hymn “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

Time of Prayer

How Is It With Your Soul?

Call to Confession

Jesus came to Galilee with the message of John the Baptist: Repent, for God’s realm has come near. His invitation went out to common everyday folks: Follow me. We, too, are called to repent and follow.

Prayers of Confession

Almighty God, we confess that we have not been faithful to you in our thoughts and actions. We have been selfish in our desires and quarrelsome in our relationships. Shine your light into our hearts. Save us from ourselves. Unite us in the same mind as Jesus Christ who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit in perfect harmony.

Time of Silent Prayer

Assurance

God is gracious and reaches out to us with forgiveness. We are free to accept the invitation to follow Jesus. This is good news! With Jesus we pray:

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Answer to the Question of the Day How much soup is “enough”?

Time of Offering *Thank you to everyone for your faithful generosity.*

***Offering Prayer**

God, you are the source of all good things, and have given us what we need. In joyful response, we offer our gifts, the fruit of our labors, and the dedication of our hearts for loving service in Christ's name. Amen.

***Song of Offering** “I Will Call Upon the Lord”

Message “Fear and Followers” Rev. Joyce Rich

***Commission and Blessing**

What have we been called to do?

Christ calls us to be fishers of people for the sake of his beloved kingdom.

Let us go to love and serve the Lord, and may the grace of Christ go with us; the power of the Holy Spirit empower and sustain us; and the salvation of God who loves us give us peace. Amen. **And Amen.**

***Hymn** “Would I Have Answered When You Called”

Announcements

Read For Next Week: Micah 6:1-8; Matthew 5:1-12; I Corinthians 1:18-31

*Liturgical resources drawn from: **Taught by Love: Worship Resources for Year A**, Lavon Bayler © 1998 United Church Press; and **Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion; Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1**, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press.*