

# Lord’s Day Worship

## A DIVINE SERVICE OF COVENANT RENEWAL

### EPIPHANY SUNDAY

January 8, 2023

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

*Quiet our minds, O God, and gladden our hearts; that, as we come together to worship you, we may, by your Spirit, be drawn near to your presence and find that this place is indeed the very gate of heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

## GOD CALLS US

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Exodus 15:1b-2*

†HYMN OF PRAISE

*"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"* ..... Selection 53

†SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF PRAISE

**Pastor:** Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People:** **And blessed be his Kingdom, now and forever!**

The LORD be with you!

**And also with you!** Ruth 2:4

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!

**Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!** Ps. 34:8

For we have died, and our life is hidden with Christ in God.

**When the Christ who is our life appears,** Col.  
**we also will appear with him in glory. Alleluia!** 3:3-4

Let us pray together:

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who at the baptism of Christ our Lord did declare him to be your beloved Son: grant that we who have been baptized into Christ may be fully assured of your benediction and thus rejoice that, in Christ, we also are your beloved sons and daughters and the servants of all; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!**

## GOD CLEANSSES US

†PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

*+Silent Prayer of Confession +*

**We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

†DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

**Pastor:** Now lift up your heads, and hear these words of comfort and good news from the Scriptures...

*“God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

*Romans 5:8*

**Pastor:** Our heavenly Father, in his great mercy, has given his only Son to die for you, and for his sake forgives you all your sins; wherefore as Christ's minister and by his authority, I declare to you that all of your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen!**

†*"Doxology"* ..... Selection 733

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here

below: Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise him above, ye heavenly host, praise Father,

Son, and Holy Ghost: O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

## GOD CONVERSES WITH US

OLD TESTAMENT READING ..... Isaiah 43:1-7

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

NEW TESTAMENT READING ..... 1 John 4:7-19

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

†GOSPEL READING ..... Matthew 3:13-17

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

†HYMN OF PRAISE

*"Baptized into Your Name Most Holy"* ..... Selection 415

†We Respond by Confessing Our Faith ..... *Nicene Creed*

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.**

**Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us, under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen!**

†*“Gloria Patri”* ..... Selection 735

SERMON TEXT. .... Matthew 3:13-17

PREACHING OF GOD’S WORD

*“You Are the Beloved”* ..... Pastor Josh Anderson  
A Sermon for Epiphany

†PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

**Pr:** O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,

**P: Have mercy upon us.**

Remember not, Lord Jesus, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forebears; neither reward us for our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare your people, whom you have redeemed with your most precious blood, and by your mercy preserve us forever.

**Spare us, good Lord.**

From all evil and wickedness; from sin, from the works and assaults of the devil;

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From all blindness of heart; from pride, vanity and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred and malice; and from all lack of love,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From all false doctrine, heresy, and division; from hardness of heart, and contempt of your Word and commandments,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, sickness, and famine; from dying suddenly and unprepared,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

In all times of suffering; in all times of prosperity; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

That it may please you to grant us true repentance; to forgive us all our sin, negligence, and ignorance; and to endure us with the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your holy Word,

**We beseech you to hear us, Good Lord.**

That it may please you to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts,

**We beseech you to hear us, Good Lord.**

That it may please you to strengthen those who stand; to encourage the faint-hearted; to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet,

**We beseech you to hear us, Good Lord.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation...

Hear us, Lord;

**For your mercy is great.**

O Lord, arise and help us;

**And deliver us for your Name’s sake. Amen!**

## GOD COMMUNES WITH US

†COMMUNION HYMN

*"O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!"* ..... Selection 535

†The Great Thanksgiving

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise!**

Pastor: It is indeed right and good and a joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks unto you, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God. Therefore, in union with the saints who have gone before us and the whole church on earth, we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

All: *Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Glory be to you, O Lord Most High!*

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

Prayer of Preparation & Faith

**We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your steadfast love, which endures forever. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord, whose character is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Father, to partake of the body and blood of your son Jesus Christ, that we may grow into his likeness, and evermore abide in union with him, and he with us. Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Bread

Pastor: Alleluia, Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us:

All: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

‡Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Wine

Pastor: Let us confess the mystery of our faith:

All: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!**

GOD COMMISSIONS US

†Prayer of Dedication

**All gracious God, who of your infinite love gave your only begotten son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins and rise again for our justification, and have made us partakers of your divine nature through the gift of the Holy Spirit; accept the fruits of our labors which we now present to you in this offering and also our very selves as we stand before you; and hear us as we pray as your Son taught us: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen!**

†Hymn of Praise

*"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah".....* Selection 598

†Pastoral Benediction

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.

People: **Amen!**

†Those who are able are invited to stand.

*Q. 66. What is that union which the elect have with Christ?*

The union which the elect have with Christ is the work of God's grace, whereby they are spiritually and mystically, yet really and inseparably, joined to Christ as their head and husband; which is done in their effectual calling.

*Q. 83. What is the communion in glory with Christ which the members of the invisible church enjoy in this life?*

The members of the invisible church have communicated to them in this life the firstfruits of glory with Christ, as they are members of him their head, and so in him are interested in that glory which he is fully possessed of; and, as an earnest thereof, enjoy the sense of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, and hope of glory.

-Westminster Larger Catechism

"Being the Beloved is the origin and the fulfillment of the life of the Spirit...Long before any human being saw us, we are seen by God's loving eyes. Long before anyone heard us cry or laugh, we are heard by our God. Long before any person spoke to us in this world, we are spoken to by the voice of eternal love. Our preciousness, uniqueness and individuality are not given to us by those who meet us in clock-time—our brief chronological existence—but by the One who has chosen us with an everlasting love, a love that existed from all eternity and will last through all eternity."

- Henri Nouwen, *Life of the Beloved*

Colleyville Presbyterian Church  
www.cpcpca.org

Pastor Josh Anderson  
email: josh@cpcpca.org  
Pastor's cell: 817.501.9015



Epiphany  
Sunday

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