

Sunday, February 14, 2021

Last Sunday in Epiphany

We answer Christ's call by:

Worshiping God

Welcoming All

Caring for Human Dignity

Serving in the World

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

The wilderness is a place of an encounter with the creator.

~Lailah Gifty Akita

PRELUDE

Shall We Gather at the River?

Pat Singer

WELCOME & LIFE IN THE CHURCH

Ash Wednesday

If you would like to view this past Wednesday's worship service you can click on this link:

<https://livestream.com/germondschurch/gpcworship/videos/217687785>

Focus on Racial Justice & 21 Day Challenge

This year during Lent, we will be participating in a 21-Day Racial Justice Challenge, starting February 21, the first Sunday in Lent. We will gather on Zoom after worship services and journey together in conversation about race and racism in this country, how it pertains to our faith, and why it's so challenging to talk about.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88152850943?pwd=d25DTFdhNVkwcS8vdDlkNTFEK2xSdz09>

Toiletry Drive to serve the Homeless

The Church in Society Committee is launching an effort to collect travel size Toiletry Kits for distribution to our homeless population in Rockland County and surrounding areas. The drive will be open for the full month of February, with final collections due on February 28th.

We are asking the congregation to assemble these kits **in gallon size food storage bags** and drop them off in the church office (which is open Mon/Wed/Fri 9:00am – 1:00pm) for distribution to our Rockland County homeless through Helping Hands and to the homeless in surrounding areas through the Midnight Run program.

Each kit should please contain the following items in travel size - soap, toothbrush and toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, and disposable razor. Travel size shaving lotion could also be helpful. They are also appreciating if we can include a t-shirt, underwear and socks....large sizes are the most popular, but a mix of sizes are well appreciated. Please keep in mind most of the homeless served are men. For those few that will be distributed to women, we can also include feminine hygiene products and women's underwear.

Please feel free to reach out to Sue Kelly at susan.kelly@us.bnpparibas.com with any questions.

CHORAL INTROIT

Wait for the Lord

Germonds Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Brian Redling

God hovered over the void and breathed life into dust.

God created in the wilderness.

The Israelites wandered in the desert for forty years.

The Israelites found God in the wilderness.

Jesus said “no” to the tempter time and time again.

Jesus claimed his identity in the wilderness.

We grow in the wilderness. We learn in the wilderness.

For God is with us—before, through, and after the wilderness.

Let us worship God!

OPENING PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

Brian Redling

Luke 13:6-9, 31-35

6 Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. 7 So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ 8 He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

31 At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” 32 He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me,^[a] ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. 33 Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ 34 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! 35 See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when^[b] you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Brian Redling

Let us confess our sins before God

God of Creation, The psalms remind us that even before a word is on our tongue, you know it completely. You know the prayers we bring before you today—confessions of greed and doubt, fear and anxiety, conflict and regret. Free us from these sins. Give us the strength to say “no” to that which separates us from you, and “yes” to the things that let love grow. Guide us out of our self-created wilderness spaces and into your light. Give us awareness of the blessings we have, even when we are in the wilderness.

Let us silently confess our sins to God.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's grace is offered to us, no matter where our journeys take us. We are renewed and redeemed, offered a new day once again. Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 43:18-21

Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.

19 I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

20 The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,

to give drink to my chosen people,

21 the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

MESSAGE

“Wilderness”

Rev. Abbie Huff

ANTHEM

Holy, Holy, Holy

Katie Baker

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

What Does the Lord Require?

Germonds Choir

POSTLUDE

Wade in the Water

Pat Singer

Racial Justice Conversation

Abbie Huff abbiehuff@germondschurch.org is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Racial Justice Conversation

Time: Feb 21, 2021 11:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88152850943?pwd=d25DTFdhNVkwcS8vdDlkNTFEK2xSdz09>

Meeting ID: 881 5285 0943

Passcode: 091641

One tap mobile

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+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 881 5285 0943

Passcode: 091641

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kc8KaNoYhr>