

Celebration of Worship

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 29, 2017

9:30 A.M.

We welcome you to worship. We are glad that you are here! Nursery and Preschool care is available if you need it. The Young and Young at Heart are welcomed to the front early on for a special time in the service. Please sign the Friendship Pads so that we can get to know you better, and join us for coffee in the Narthex after the service.

Thought for Reflection

“When I was young, I longed to be a saint. What was I longing for? I think it was the certainty that my life had been, in the most profound sense, a ‘success’ – that great and glorious success that is sanctity. We revere the saints. We imitate them. Theirs is the true and lasting glory. Very clearly this desire is, unconsciously, as worldly as that of the writer who wants to write a masterpiece or the politician who yearns to be minister or president. None of these ambitions has the least to do with what Jesus preached – that lowliness, that love for last place, that readiness to die and be forgotten, to be concerned with oneself in any way, to watch one’s growth in ‘holiness’ or ‘prayer,’ to be spiritually ambitious – all this Jesus earnestly sets his face against.”

Sr. Wendy Beckett, “Saints in Art through the Centuries”

At God’s Invitation We Gather

WELCOME AND GREETING

RINGING THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* Hayes

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Blessed are the poor in spirit, the downtrodden and despairing;

They will rejoice in God’s reign forever.

Blessed are those who mourn, who are grieving;

They will be comforted in God’s reign forever.

Blessed are the ones who seek justice and righteousness;

They will find it in God’s reign forever.

Blessed are we when we love our neighbors and seek their needs;

We will live in God’s reign forever.

Blessed are we all when we seek to serve others in God’s name;

Let us worship together, serving one another and serving our Mighty God. Amen.

* *Please stand, if you are able*

* HYMN *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* # 379

ANNOUNCEMENTS

God Speaks to Us through the Word

WORDS FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

Message *What Makes a Person Great?*

Prayer *Children and Youth are dismissed for Sunday School.*

* HYMN *What Does the Lord Require* # 405

GOSPEL LESSON *Matthew 5:1-12* p. 785

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Micah 6:1-8* p. 757

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SERMON *Greatness or Goodness:
What Does God Really Want from Us?*
Rev. Dr. Lawrence J. De Vuyst

PRAYER OF BROKENNESS / FORGIVENESS (in unison)

Holy One, we come before you confessing that we have taken more than our share. We have wanted to have everything we need in life and have missed seeing the needs of our neighbors. We have worked hard to get where we are and have failed to see that You gave Your life for us, and that we ought to live our lives for others.

Forgive us for putting ourselves first over the needs of others. Help us to seek to serve you in all that we do by serving others, in the name of Christ, who came, not to be served, but to serve. Amen.

(moment of silent reflection)

BLESSING AND PARDON (responsively)

Blessed are you, for you are God’s beloved child. God loves you. God desires the best for you. So ... give your best by loving your neighbors as yourselves. Know that you are forgiven. Go and live for others, loving them and forgiving them.

Thanks be to God.

We Respond as God's People

BRINGING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

The Beatitudes
Chancel Choir

Avery/Marsh

O how blest are the poor in Spirit; theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.
And how blest are the sad and mournful; they'll be consoled by God.
O how blest are the meek and humble; they will inherit the earth.
And how blest those who hunger for goodness; they all will feast with God.

Blest and happy we shall be! Listen to the Master's Word.
Soon the Kingdom's coming – watch and see: The Kingdom of the Lord!

O how blest are the mercy givers; mercy they will receive.
And how blest are the pure in heart; they surely will see God.

O how blest are the true peacemakers; they will be known as God's children.
And how blest those who suffer for justice; they will be honored by God.

DOXOLOGY (# 592) AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (Debts/debtors)

God Sends Us Out to Serve

* HYMN

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

404

* BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE *May the Lord, Mighty God*

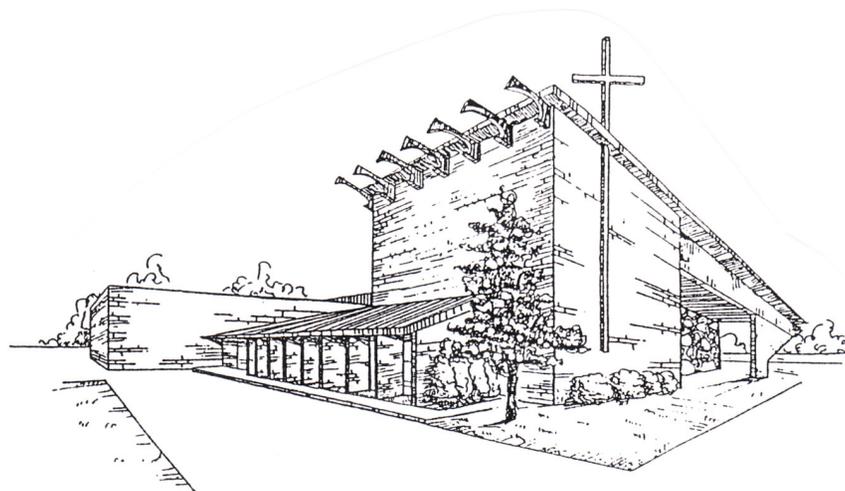
* POSTLUDE

Ash Grove

Leatherman

* * * * *

WEBSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



...that all may come

to know Jesus Christ,

to love Him,

to serve Him,

and to enjoy Him forever.