The Season after the Epiphany

Welcome to Christ Church!

We are so glad you have joined us for worship this morning. As we continue to recover from the recent COVID-19 pandemic, here are a few important guidelines for in-person services:

- Masks continue to be required for all indoor gatherings at this time.
- Social distancing is recommended between cohorts. Cohorts are family members and/or friends who agree to share close proximity.
- No one should sit directly behind anyone else unless they are part of a cohort.
- Distance between cohorts should be maintained.
- It is each parishioner's responsibility to follow social distancing guidelines, taking into consideration other parishioners' safety and level of comfort.

CHRIST
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

We are a community forgiven and loved by God,

joyfully called to the work of reconciliation.

christchurchcape.org

Gathering

Prelude

Mary Miller, Organist

Processional Hymn

#488 Be thou my vision (*See bulletin p. 15)*

Opening Rite: Liturgy of the Light

All standing, the Officiant greets the People with these words:

Officiant: Dear friends in the risen Christ, we gather today to celebrate the Lord's Day, and for a time to be united in prayer and praise with each other and those who have gone before us. Sunday has been called the Lord's Day because it was on this day that Jesus conquered sin and death and rose to new life. As we gather together online, let us be united in the spirit of Christ with the Church around the world and celebrate our redemption in Christ's suffering, death and resurrection.

Silence follows for a time.

Officiant: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The following sentence of scripture may be read:

It is not ourselves that we proclaim; we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants, for Jesus's sake. For the same God who said, "Out of darkness let light shine," has caused his light to shine within us, to give the light of revelation – the revelation of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

(*2 Corinthians 4:5-6*)

Prayer for Christ's Light

Candles may now be lit during the following prayer:

Officiant: May the light of Christ gloriously risen dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

People: May this simple flame of love and hope be found still burning by the Morning Star; the one Morning Star who never sets, Christ your Son, who, coming back from death's domain, has shed his light on humanity, and lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Alleluia! *Amen*.

The Confession and Assurance of Pardon

As we worship we ask God's forgiveness for things done and things left undone and things done on our behalf so that we are reconciled to God and each other.

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

Silence is kept for a time.

Officiant: God of mercy,

People: We have sinned against you and against others. We have sinned in what we have done, and in what we have failed to do. We are truly sorry. For the sake of your son, Jesus Christ, who died for our sins, forgive us all that is past and raise us to newness of life. *Amen*.

We are assured of God's forgiveness and love:

Officiant: Almighty God, who pardons all who truly repent, forgive you your sins, strengthen you by the Holy Spirit, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. *Amen*.

Hymn of Praise

LEVAS #118 Spirit Song (*See bulletin p. 16)*

Officiant: Let us glorify the Holy One as we say:

People: O Light of the World, first-born of creation, radiance of glory, light from light begotten; God self-revealing, holy, bright, and blessed, you shine upon us. Day's light is fleeting, your light is eternal, and we look to you our light within the shadow. We sing to you, O Creator, Christ, and Spirit, you shine before us. Light of the world, O Jesus Christ, we bless you; giver of life and Child of God, we praise you. Here with us the universe proclaims your glory, as you shine among us. *Amen*.

The Opening Acclamation

Officiant: Blessed be God: + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and forever. *Amen*.

The Collect for Purity

Officiant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open,

People: all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

The Collect of the Day

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the

supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

The Readings

The First Reading — Jeremiah 1:4-10

The word of the Lord came to me saying,

> "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the Lord said to me,

> "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you, Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you,

says the Lord."

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me,

> "Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm of Response — Psalm 71:1-6

In te, Domine, speravi

1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; *
let me never be ashamed.

2 In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; *
incline your ear to me and save me.

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; *
you are my crag and my stronghold.

4 Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, *
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.

5 For you are my hope, O Lord God, *
my confidence since I was young.

6 I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;
from my mother's womb you have been my strength; *
my praise shall be always of you.

The Second Reading 1 Cor. 13:1–13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The People stand for the Hymn and the reading of the Gospel.

The Sequence Hymn

WLP #773 Heal me, hands of Jesus (See bulletin p. 18)

Third Reading Luke 4:21–30

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue at Nazareth: "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Officiant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon Kent Miller

The Affirmation of Faith

Originally the entire service was viewed as our confession of faith. Since the sixth century, however, the church has recited either the Nicene Creed or the Apostle's Creed at the Eucharist. The word "creed" comes from the Latin credo, for "I believe" or "I lend my heart to." Either the Nicene Creed, the Apostle's Creed, or the following may be used:

Officiant: Let us affirm our faith. Do you believe in God?

People: We believe in God the Father the almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

Officiant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: We believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Officiant: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. *Amen*.

The Offertory

#576 God is love, and where true love is (*See bulletin, p. 19*)

Here at Christ Church, we consider gratitude and generosity to be spiritual disciplines. While some of us still can't be together to pass the collection plate to one another in person, we encourage you to offer your gifts and service in any way that makes the most sense to you.

If you are worshipping with us online, dick here to contribute to our ongoing ministry in downtown Cape Girardeau.

The plate offering for the first Sunday of each month is dedicated to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. On the second Sunday of each quarter, the plate offering is dedicated to the Red Door Jubilee Center Food Pantry.

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray:

All: 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 and ever. *Amen.*

The Prayers of the People

Reader: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

A moment of silence is kept.

Reader: For all people in their daily life and work;

People: For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

A moment of silence is kept.

Reader: For the community of Cape Girardeau, for our weary and divided nation, and for the world that you have made;

People: For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

A moment of silence is kept.

Reader: For the just and proper use of your creation;

People: For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

A moment of silence is kept.

Reader: For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

People: For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

A moment of silence is kept.

Reader: For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

People: For all who proclaim the Gospel and all who seek the Truth.

A moment of silence is kept.

Reader: For our Presiding Bishop, Michael;

People: for our Bishop, Deon; and for all who serve God in his Church.

A moment of silence is kept.

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

The People may add their own petitions.

Reader: Hear us, Lord,

People: for your mercy is great.

A moment of silence is kept.

Reader: We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

The People may add their own thanksgivings.

Reader: We will exalt you, O God our King;

People: **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

A moment of silence is kept.

Reader: We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

A moment of silence is kept.

Reader: Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon those who put their trust in you.

Officiant: Liberating God, who led your People out of slavery and through the desert wilderness of Sinai to cross the River Jordan into the Promised Land; whose Spirit drew Jesus back to the same river to be baptized by John, and who made of us one People through water and spirit by the faithfulness of your Son: Hear our prayers, and unite us once again in your Love. *Amen*.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Silence is kept for a time.

The Thanksgiving

Officiant: Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

People: **We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care, which surrounds us on every side.**

Officiant: We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

People: **We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.**

Officiant: Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temp tation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

People: **Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. *Amen*.**

The Peace

The Peace is exchanged.

Officiant: The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

We greet each other in the name of the risen Christ.

Recessional Hymn

LEVAS #188 It is well, with my soul (*See bulletin p. 20*)

The Sending

Officiant: Our worship is ended. Our service in the world now begins. Go now to love and serve the Lord. *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

People: **We go in the name of Christ. Thanks be to God! *Alleluia! Alleluia!***

We invite you to remain seated to enjoy the beautiful postlude music, centering your hearts and minds in preparation to move joyfully and thankfully into the coming week to serve God and others.

Postlude

Mary Miller, Organist

Servers

Eucharistic Minister	Carl Muench
Reader	Sue Balsamo
Greeter	Donna Richardet
Altar Guild	Monica Waldon
St. Isidore's Guild	Bob Lowe
Vestry Counter	Kevin Hampton
Organist	Mary Miller

Unless otherwise noted, all hymns are taken from

The Hymnal 1982
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WLP *Wonder, Love and Praise: A Supplement to The Hymnal 1982*
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LEVAS *Lift Every Voice and Sing II: An African American Hymnal*
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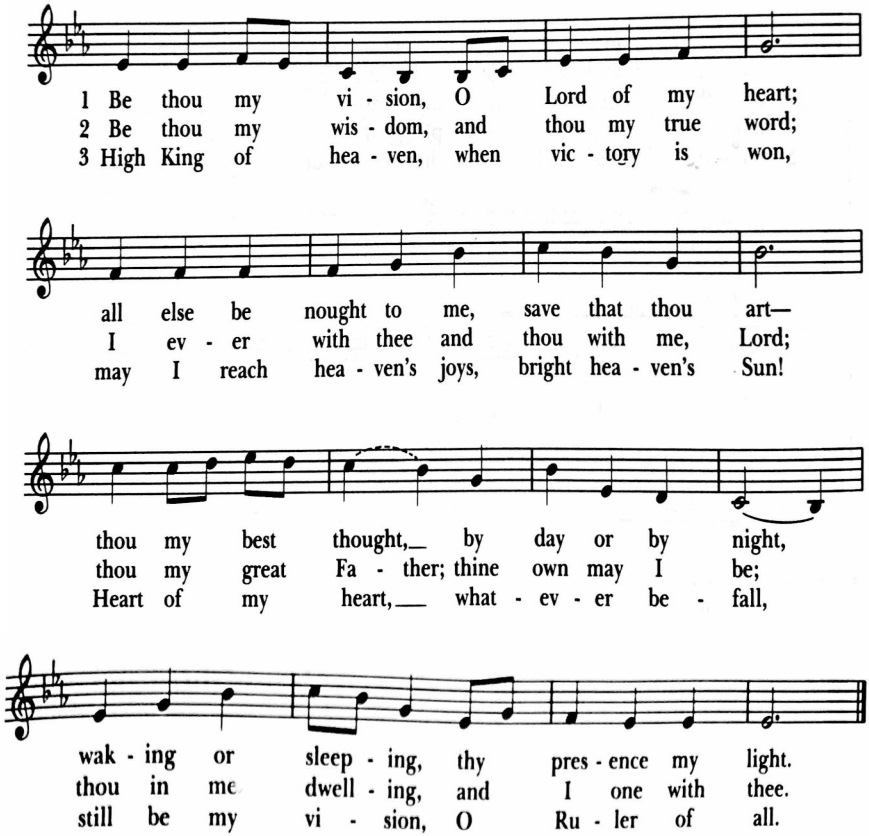
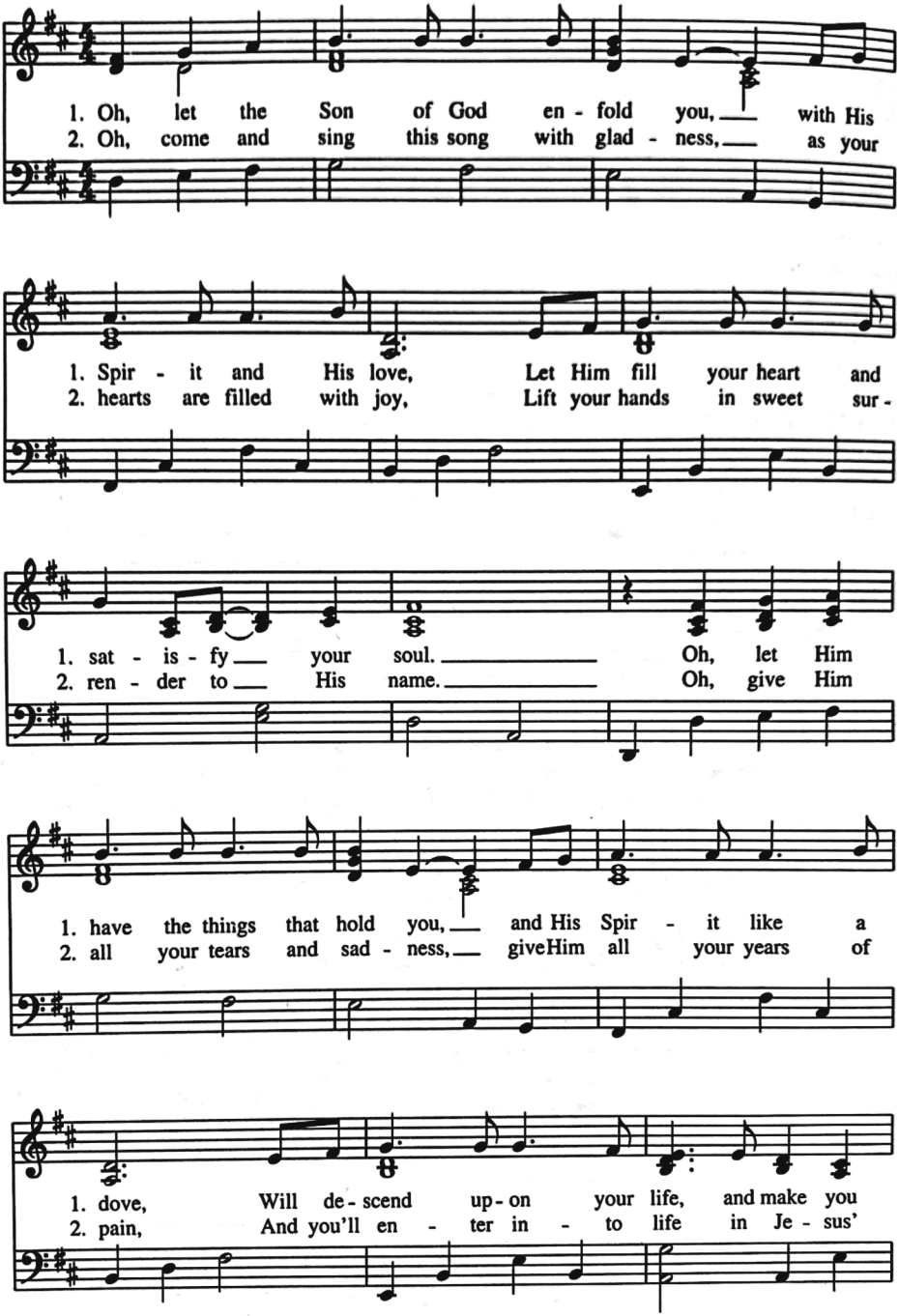

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,
all else be nought to me, save that thou art—
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!
thou my best thought,— by day or by night,
thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;
Heart of my heart,— what - ev - er be - fall,
wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
still be my vi - sion, O Ru - ler of all.



Words: John Wimber
Music: John Wimber
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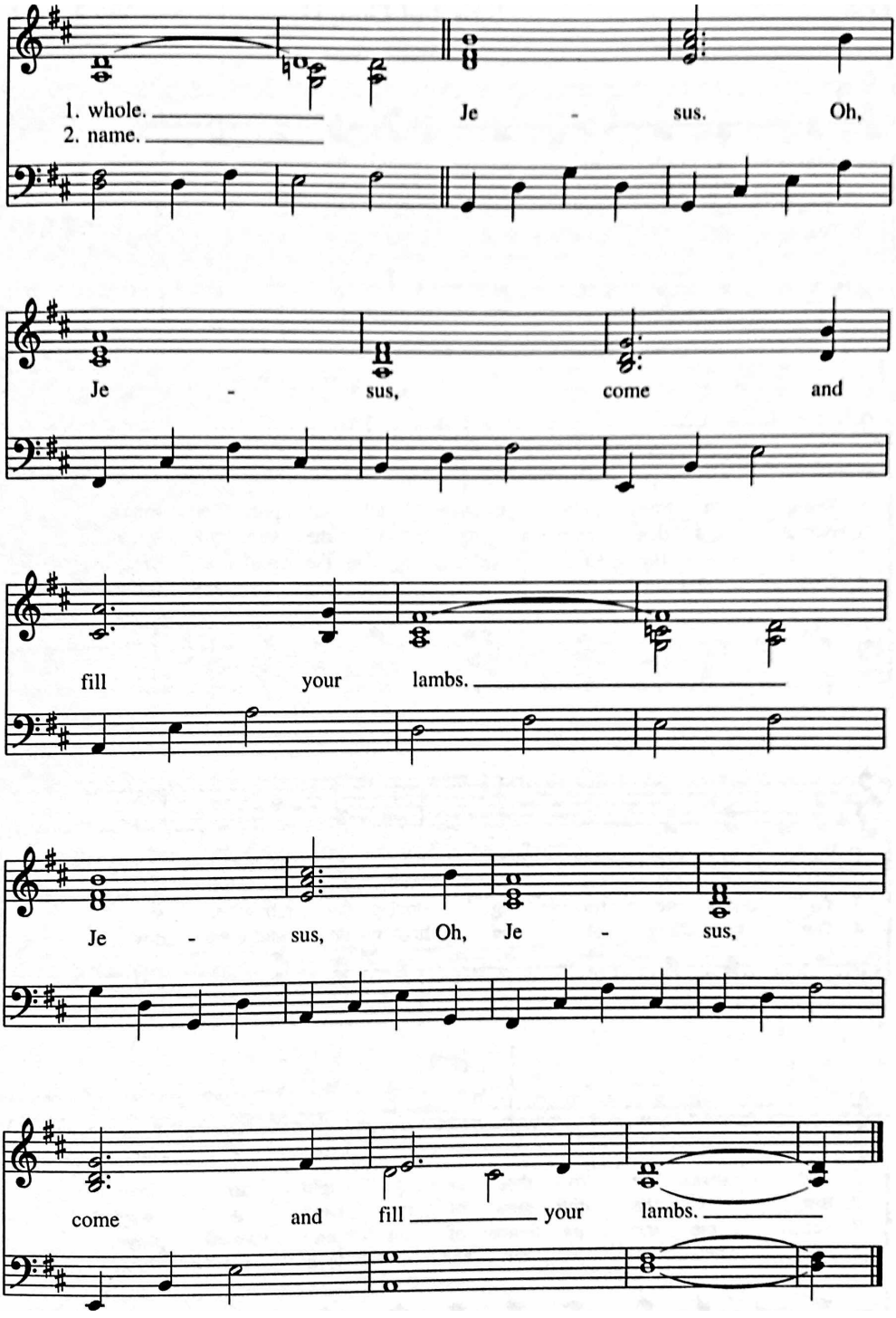
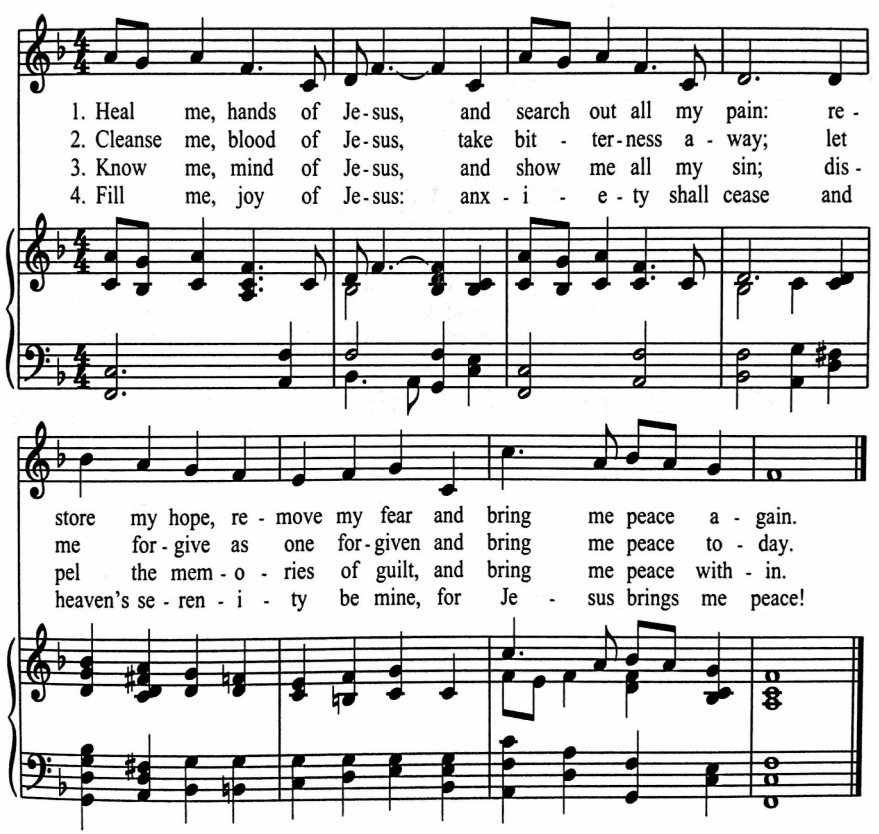
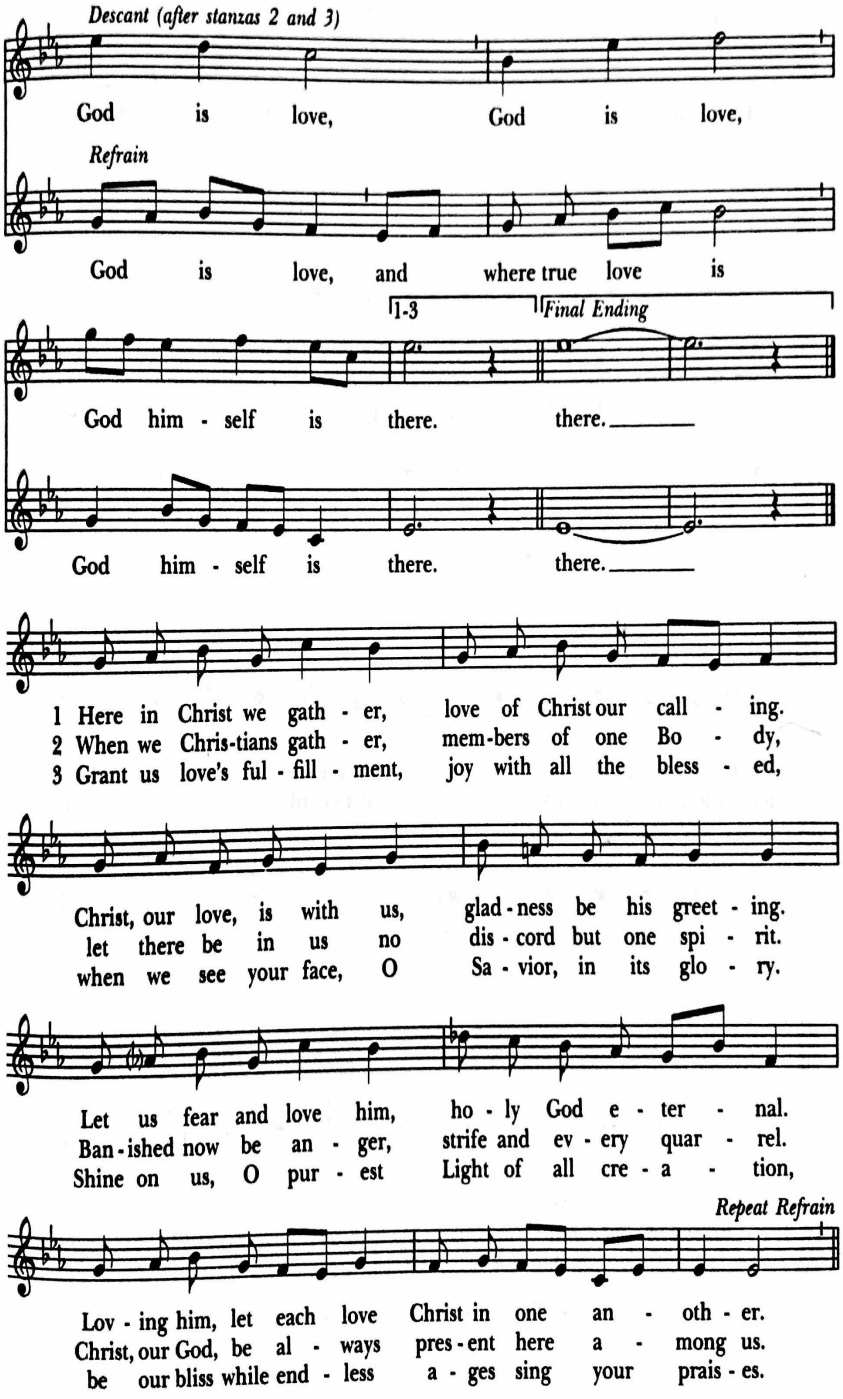
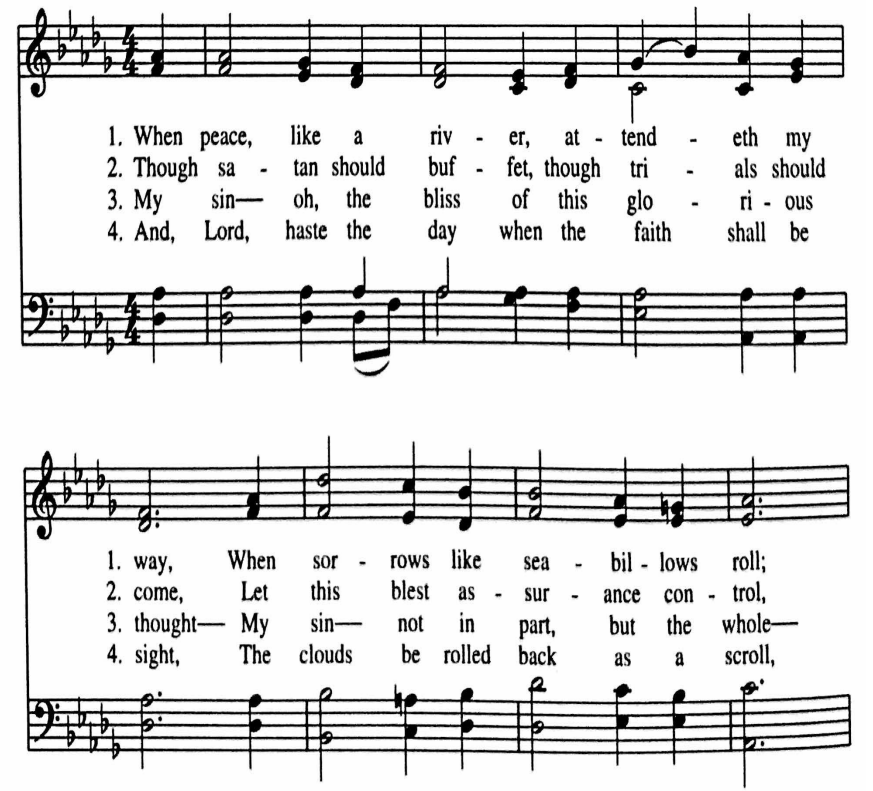
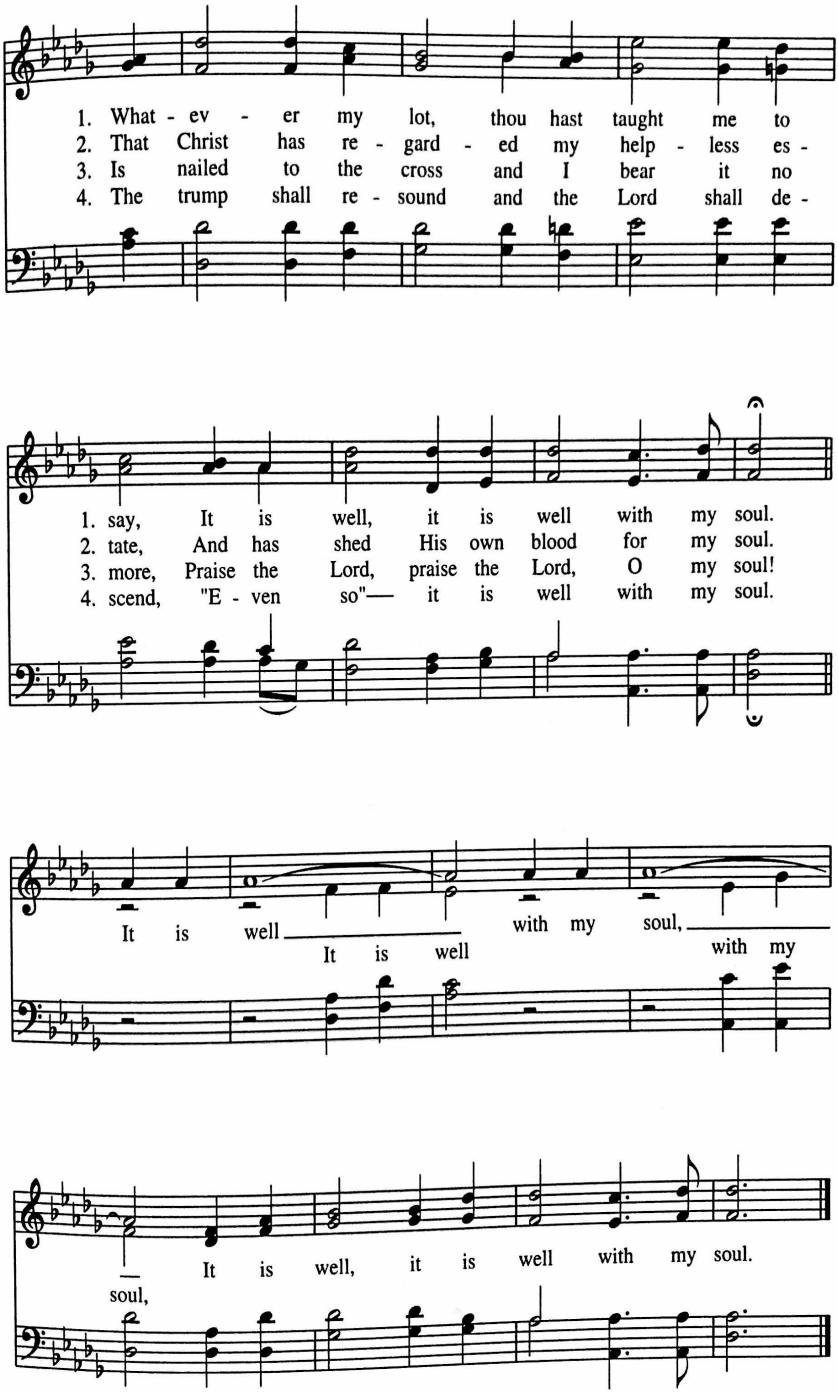

1. whole.
2. name.
Je - sus. Oh,
Je - sus, come and
fill your lambs.
Je - sus, Oh, Je - sus,
come and fill your lambs.


1. Heal me, hands of Je-sus, and search out all my pain: re-
2. Cleanse me, blood of Je-sus, take bit - ter-ness a - way; let
3. Know me, mind of Je-sus, and show me all my sin; dis-
4. Fill me, joy of Je-sus: anx - i - e - ty shall cease and
store my hope, re - move my fear and bring me peace a - gain.
me for-give as one for-given and bring me peace to - day.
pel the mem - o - ries of guilt, and bring me peace with - in.
heaven's se - ren - i - ty be mine, for Je - sus brings me peace!


Descant (after stanzas 2 and 3)
God is love, God is love,
Refrain
God is love, and where true love is
1-3
Final Ending
God him - self is there. there.
God him - self is there. there.
1 Here in Christ we gath - er, love of Christ our call - ing.
2 When we Chris-tians gath - er, mem-bers of one Bo - dy,
3 Grant us love's ful - fill - ment, joy with all the bless - ed,
Christ, our love, is with us, glad - ness be his greet - ing.
let there be in us no dis - cord but one spi - rit.
when we see your face, O Sa - vior, in its glo - ry.
Let us fear and love him, ho - ly God e - ter - nal.
Ban - ished now be an - ger, strife and ev - ery quar - rel.
Shine on us, O pur - est Light of all cre - a - tion,
Repeat Refrain
Lov - ing him, let each love Christ in one an - oth - er.
Christ, our God, be al - ways pres - ent here a - mong us.
be our bliss while end - less a - ges sing your prais - es.


1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my
2. Though sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should
3. My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous
4. And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be
1. way, When sor - rows like sea - bil - lows roll;
2. come, Let this blest as - sur - ance con - trol,
3. thought— My sin— not in part, but the whole—
4. sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,


1. What - ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to
2. That Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es -
3. Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no
4. The trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de -
1. say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
2. tate, And has shed His own blood for my soul.
3. more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
4. scend, "E - ven so"— it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul,
It is well with my
soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Prayers:

Ann Hogan

Barbara Muench

Anita Eulitt

Kathy Farwell

Janet Hinson

Charles Roy Anderson

Moksha Efsea

Todd Naeter

Irene Thomas

Bryan Lee

Amy & Tim

Linda Gresham

Jennie

Mary Ann

Deceased:

Kay Murphy

Charlotte Bess

In our Diocese of Missouri, we pray for the people and ministry of Trinity Episcopal Church (1855) in the Central West End neighborhood of St. Louis. We pray for Jon, their Rector; Aaron, their Associate to the Rector; Barbi, their Food Ministry Manager; Harry, their Deacon; and Michaelene Miller, Director of Deaconess Anne House.

In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for the people and ministry of the Orden Franciscana Diocesana (Diocesan Franciscan Order).

Notes on the Service

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Jer. 1:4–10 • Ps. 71:1-6 • 1 Cor. 13:1–13 • Lk. 4:21–32

February 2, "Candlemas," will be the Feast of the Presentation of the forty-day-old Jesus in the Temple, an epiphany of the Boy's glory. Old Simeon's Song then is foreshadowed in the petition of today's collect, "...grant us thy peace." Today's readings present themes of the youthful, or the inexperienced, and the aged. After Feb. 2, the Epiphany proper preface to the Sanctus will be replaced by a Sunday preface.

At his call Jeremiah protests that he is only a youth. Moses and Solomon had voiced that objection as well, but God had not replied that they had been destined from the womb. While prophets were routinely rejected in their hometowns, as Jesus will observe in today's Gospel, few were as maligned as Jeremiah would be. Despite rejection, God will not only stick with him, but even give him power over kingdoms, he is assured. This novice would need divine protection, for he was to live through the eras of King Josiah's reformation and of Judah's deportation.

Like Jeremiah, the now-aged psalmist has been God's since before birth. Picture Jeremiah in his old age using the lament which is Psalm 71 to pray for deliverance from his persecutors. (The lament became Jeremiah's forte.) Picture also elderly Simeon and Anna at the infant Christ's Presentation next Wednesday using Ps 71:18 (omitted today), "Now that I am old and gray-headed do not forsake me till I make known thy strength to this generation, thy power to those yet to come."

"When I became a man I put away childish things," says Paul in today's excerpt, a passage chosen not because it differs from others of today's readings, but because in I Corinthians it follows immediately upon last Sunday's epistle in which Paul said that he would show his readers "a yet more excellent way." That more excellent way is charity or love, glorified in this famous passage. Even though I Corinthians 13 is not about romantic love, this eloquent Pauline prose has become a favorite reading at weddings.

Cont. on the next page->

Page 2:

The Gospel shows the reactions of the Nazareth synagogue congregation to Jesus' maiden sermon. At first they are complimentary, but then they recall that this kid is a home-boy of theirs. The rookie antagonizes them further by reminding them that the prophets Elijah and Elisha had ministered not to home-towners but to foreigners. This so outrages his townsmen that they try to kill him, as Jeremiah's townsmen had tried to kill him. He then moves on to Capernaum, (the first time Luke locates him there, which is curious in view of Jesus' remark during his dispute with the Nazareth congregation that they had heard what he had already done in Capernaum.)

Rev. Stephen Weissman
Asheville, North Carolina