

Sunday, January 31st

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements



Call to Worship

Leader: We gather around the words of Christ:

People: “Come, and follow me.”

Leader: We gather around the voice of the Spirit:

People: “Come, and follow me.”

Leader: Let us worship God together

People: and follow Christ into the world.

Hymn # 53 – O God, Who Gives Us Life

O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb, who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb: Deliver us from fears that kill the life we have from you. Help us to know your Spirit still is making all things new.

O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare, to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there: When we despair in wandering through wastes of empty lies, refresh us with the living spring of hope that never dies.

O God of covenant and law, revealed in cloud and flame, your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your name. Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your people prove, as on our hearts you write anew the covenant of love.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O Holy God, you called the disciples to drop their nets and follow you, yet we are hesitant to drop the tools and comforts of our lives. We distract ourselves from your call with busyness, stress, and worry. We tangle ourselves in webs of racism, sexism, and hatred that disguises itself as fear. Forgive us, O Lord, and by your forgiveness, open our ears to hear your voice saying to us, “Follow me.” Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Special Music

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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Sermon: Joining God's Mission

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn # 749 – Come! Live in the Light! (We Are Called)

Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord! We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God. We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly; we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear! We are called to be hope for the hopeless so hatred and violence will be no more. We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly; we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love. We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly; we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Prayers of the People

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response: Hymn #547 – Go, My Children, with My Blessing, verse 1

“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone. Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own. In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever. Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”

Postlude

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ISRAEL

53 O God, Who Gives Us Life

1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
2 O God, who calls your peo-ple out to ven-ture and to dare,
3 O God of cov-e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,

who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:
your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.

de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
when we de-spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,

Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Christians often fail to appreciate how much we can learn about God from the Hebrew Scriptures. This text draws on a variety of passages that call attention to God's faithfulness toward the Chosen People and the promise of a new covenant written on the heart (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

749 Come! Live in the Light!

We Are Called



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that



joy and the love of the Lord! We are called
 mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called
 great day when all will be one! God will reign,



to be light for the king - dom, to live in the
 to be hope for the hope - less so ha - tred and
 and we'll walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and



free - dom of the cit - y of God.
 vio - lence will be no more.
 broth - ers u - nit - ed in love.

Refrain



We are called to act with jus - tice; we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

The thematic and musical center of this hymn on the vocation of all believers is found in the refrain, which is based on the well-known challenge of Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"