



TRUCKEE LUTHERAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany – January 28, 2024

We invite you to participate in worship, reading the parts in bold print. ♪ means All Sing!
** We invite you to stand, as you are able, for sections marked with an asterisk.*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

WELCOME

Pastor Pat Mecham

OPENING WORDS

We come to acknowledge the mysterious and wonderful ways of God:

A snowstorm that quiets our hurry; a humble word that opens a heart; a simple dream that sparks new hope.

The ordinary reveals the Holy and all the world shall praise God.

In God's holy presence, we sing our joy!

*** ♪ GATHERING SONG – “All Creatures, Worship God Most High”**

Congregation

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The proof of God's amazing love is this:

While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Together, we confess our sin to God.

Compassionate Jesus, God of disarming tenderness, put your heart into our hearts and touch us with healing and hope. We have bruised others by our thoughtless words and prejudgments. We have cautiously held back when a bold response was needed. We have counted more on our personal resources and missed your gifts of community and care.

Send your forgiveness to us and through us, and remind us of our connectedness to one another and to you. Let your joy grow again in our midst, we ask in the name of Christ. Amen.

Hear the good news: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good.

I declare to you in the name of Christ, we are forgiven!

*** SHARING OF THE LORD'S PEACE**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ in a way that you feel most comfortable, saying “The peace of Christ be with you.”

♪ PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – “Ancient Words”

Congregation

EPISTLE READING**1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth - as in fact there are many gods and many lords - yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

*** GOSPEL READING****Mark 1:21-28**

[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching - with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The Gospel, the Good News of God.

Thanks be to God!

MEDITATION – “A New Teaching”

Pastor Pat Mecham

*** ♪ SONG IN RESPONSE – “Here I Am, Lord”**

Congregation

*** APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I 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.**

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS AND PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation.

Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Pat Mecham

Please conclude your prayer with "Lord, in your mercy," and all will respond, "Hear our prayer."

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

INVITATION AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

♪ COMMUNION SONG – "Jesus, Remember Me"

Congregation

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* ♪ SENDING SONG – "How Great Thou Art"

Congregation

PREPARING FOR OUR MISSION IN THE WORLD – ANNOUNCEMENTS *Birthdays/Anniversaries*

We are called to make Christ known by our words and actions - in our church, in our local community, and throughout the world.

* BENEDICTION

You go nowhere by accident.

Wherever we go, God is sending us. Wherever we are, God has put us here; God has a purpose in our being here.

Christ who indwells you has something he wants to do through you, right where you are. Believe this, and go in God's grace and love and power!

Amen!

* POSTLUDE

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We invite all to join us by giving to the ministry of TLPC. **We thank everyone who generously supports this ministry.** Gifts may be made online through our website at TLPC.org or mailed to: **Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church, PO Box 10620, Truckee, CA 96162**

Our congregation has a heart for missions: locally, nationally, and in God's world. With your support we give to Sierra Community House (Hunger Relief, Crisis Intervention & Prevention, Family Support & Community Engagement, Mediation & Legal Assistance); North Tahoe–Truckee Homeless Services; Healthy Babies; International Health Partners Tanzania; Hands of Hope Zimbabwe; youth service trips to Nicaragua and Alaska; adult disaster trips locally and around the world; and the responsible, vigorous mission work of the Presbyterian Church USA and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in our nation and world. Additionally, during the pandemic, our congregation has supported local essential workers.

Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Washoe people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this country their home.

