



Worship Service for January 8, 2023 Epiphany Sunday

Prelude **Marshall Davies**

Chiming of the Hour **Mary Davis**

Praise & Worship Celebration **Congregation**

Sing! # 178 "Here Are Our Hearts"

Here are our hearts.

Here are our hands.

Here are our lives.

Use them as You can.

Show us those who hurt.

Show us those in need.

Show us how to serve.

Teach us how to see.

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Here are our hands.

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Welcome

Pastor Mak

Centering Moment

Pastor Mak

Call to Worship

Mary Davis

LEADER: This month we mark a new beginning.

ALL: We set our minds and spirits on you, O God.

LEADER: We are the work of your hands, your spirit, and your love.

ALL: Help us to leave behind the failures and flaws of the past year.

LEADER: Loosen our grip on the past so that we can be free in your love.

ALL: You are God.

LEADER: We trust you to be our strength.

ALL: We worship you in spirit, in hope, and in love.

***Hymn**

Congregation

TNCH # 164 "Arise, Your Light Is Come"

Arise, your light is come!

The Spirit's call obey;

Show forth the glory of your God

Which shines on you to-day!

Arise, your light is come!

Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captive's liberty,
Good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the broken-hearted ones
And comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.

Biblical Witness

Pastor Mak

The Gospel Of John 1:25 - 31

The Pharisees asked John, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I

myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.”

Contemporary Witness

Mary Davis

“Eyes Of The Heart” by Christine Valters Painter; pg 123

In Christian spiritual tradition, there are two primary paths toward knowing God, which are to be practiced together, in tension with one another. One is the kataphatic way, or way of images. This is the path of sacred art and music, of guided imagination and story-telling, and of course, of photography.

The other is known as the apophatic way, or way of unknowing. The great mystics understood that, even when we exhaust every last image or idea of God we have, God is still much greater than all of that. God’s mystery is so much more expansive than anything we can try to contain through language or art.

We need both of these paths. The kataphatic way without the apophatic becomes idolatry or the worship of images as the reality to which they point. The apophatic way without the kataphatic becomes nihilism or the belief that we can never know anything about God or even whether God exists. So they are essential to one another, and when we are exploring images, it is important to hold our grasp loosely. We run into danger when we hold too tightly onto our sacred images.

Reflection

“Slowly Unfolding”

Pastor Mak

Special Music

Plymouth Choir

“Seekers of Light”

Hope of the world, Light everlasting, Jesus the
brightest and best,
Son of the Dawn, You are our Vision, You are
the Heart of our quest.

Drawn by the Flame, led by a star, You are our
Lamp in the night.

Eyes full of hope, warmed by a Promise, We are
the Seekers of Light.

Joy of the world, Glory of heaven, Beacon of
hope burning bright,
Spark of true love, Fire of creation, draw us to
live in Your light.

Lord of our lives, lead through the darkness, Let
us burn bright for Your name.

Shine through us, Lord. Make us Your candle. .
Consume us now with Your flame.

We are the seekers of Light.

We are the seekers of Light.

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Mak

Unison Prayer

Pastor Mak & Congregation

(Written by Parker J. Palmer)

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother, holy and blessed is your true name. We pray for your reign of peace to come, we pray that your good will be done, let heaven and earth become one. Give us this day the bread we need, give it to those who have none.

Let forgiveness flow like a river between us, from each one to each one. Lead us to holy innocence beyond the evil of our days – come swiftly Mother, Father, come. For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy. Forever your name is All in One.

Invitation to Offering

Mary Davis

Plymouth's General Fund &
"Star of Hope" - Loose Offering

Offertory Music

Marshall Davies

Doxology

Congregation

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God for all that Love has done
Creator, Christ, and Spirit one Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Mary Davis

LEADER: Holy One, you watch over our coming and our going.

ALL: Sometimes we live in chaos. Sometimes in calm.

LEADER: You walk with us always, in all circumstances.

ALL: As a church we desire to walk with others in all their circumstances.

LEADER: We bless this offering now as one way to do that.

ALL: May the time, talent, and treasure represented here be the first steps to sharing our abundant love.

*Hymn

Congregation

Sing # 196 "Let It Shine" vs 1 & 3

Let it shine, let it shine,
The light of the world that shows the way;
Let it shine, let it shine,
And show us peace today.

The church bears witness to God's grace,
Its mission crystal clear:
To show the world God's human face,
A world that God holds dear.

Let it shine, let it shine,
The light of the world that shows the way;
Let it shine, let it shine,
And show us peace today.

Now let us give ourselves to God
Within this war-torn world,
And work till justice walks abroad
With flags of peace unfurled.

Let it shine, let it shine,
The light of the world that shows the way;
Let it shine, let it shine,
And show us peace today.

Benediction

Pastor Mak

Song Of Parting

Marshall Davies

Sing! 197 “La Paz Sea Contigo” (Peace Be With You)

La paz sea contigo
La paz sea contigo
May God’s peace be with you,
Now and forever
La paz sea contigo

El amor sea contigo

El amor sea contigo
May God's love be with you,
Now and forever
El amor sea contigo

El espíritu sea contigo
El espíritu sea contigo
May God's Spirit be with you
Now and forever
El espíritu sea contigo

Postlude

Marshall Davies

Today's Worship Participants

Worship Leader: Mary Davis

Sound: Lynette Lange

Video: Tony Trosclair

Projector: Amie & Shelby-Mak Friday

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