

**Seventh Sunday After Christmas  
February 19, 2023 Worship Bulletin**

**Gathering for God's Word**

Prelude

\*Welcome & Passing the Peace of Christ

\*Song of Praise

#319, "Shout to the North,"

Men of faith rise up and sing  
Of the great and glorious King  
You are strong when you feel weak  
In your brokenness complete

Chorus:

Shout to the North and the South  
Sing to the East and the West  
Jesus is savior to all  
Lord of heaven and earth

Rise up women of the truth  
Stand and sing to broken hearts  
Who can know the healing power  
Of our awesome King of love

Rise up church with broken wings  
Fill this place with songs again  
Of our God who reigns on high  
By God's grace again we'll fly

Text & Music: Martin Smith, 1995

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Announcements

Time of Silence & Ringing of the Bell

**Preparing for God's Word**

\*Call to Worship

[based on Psalm 99: 1-3]

Leader: The Lord is Sovereign; let the people tremble in awe.

**People: God is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.**

Leader: The Lord is great in Zion and is high above all peoples.

**People: Let us proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God, and worship God upon the holy mountain.**

\*Hymn of Adoration

#39, "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923  
Music: William Marion Runyan, 1923  
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Prayer of Confession

**All: Almighty God, we enter your presence today humbly, aware that we approach you from a world that too often chooses to walk in darkness, apart from you. Each one of us has at one time or another ignored and even denied the transforming power of your son Jesus Christ. We confess now our sins to you, God of power and might. Penetrate our darkness by the power of Christ's light, that we may live in the joy of knowing and loving you and each other.**

*[Silent prayer of confession]*

Leader: We pray all this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**All: Amen**

## Assurance of Pardon

[based on 2 Corinthians 3: 17-18]

Leader: Hear the Good News. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

**People: And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.**

Leader: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and transformed! Praise be to God!

## Hearing God's Word

### Children's Message

Ages 12 and under gather up front as congregation sings, #188, "Jesus Loves Me."

After the Children's Message, the children may return to sit with their families.

### Hymn of Preparation

#2152, "Change My Heart, O God," Sing the Faith Hymnal

Change my heart Oh God, make it ever true.

Change my heart Oh God, may I be like You.

You are the potter, I am the clay,

Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart Oh God, make it ever true.

Change my heart Oh God, may I be like You

Words & Music: Eddie Espinosa

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### Prayer of Illumination

### New Testament Reading: Colossians 1: 1-14

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

2 To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,

4 because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all

the saints — 5 the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you

in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel 6

that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just

as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's

grace in all its truth. 7 You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is

a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, 8 and who also told us of your love in the

Spirit.

9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying

for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual

wisdom and understanding. 10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life

worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

## Sermon

“Growing in Grace... Joy From the Air We Breathe”

## Responding to God’s Word

### \*Affirmation of Faith

[from the Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1]

Leader: What do we believe about Christ?

**All: My only comfort in life and in death is that I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death— to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.**

**He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

## Offering

Offertory

Anthem

“Let Everything That Has Breath,” Capilano University Music

\*Response

#606, The Doxology, “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

\*Prayer of Dedication

## Prayers of the People

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

## \*Hymn of Response

"Breathe"

This is the air I breathe  
This is the air I breathe  
Your holy presence  
Living in me

This is my daily bread  
This is my daily bread  
Your very Word  
Spoken to me

And I, I'm desperate for You  
And I, I'm lost without You

Words & Music: Marie Barnett  
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## \*Benediction

### \*Benediction Response

#2281, "May You Run and Not Be Weary," Sing the Faith Hymnal

May you run and not be weary  
May your heart be filled with song  
And may the love of God  
Continue to give you hope  
And keep you strong  
And may you run and not be weary  
May your life be filled with joy  
And may the road you travel  
Always lead you home

Words & Music: Handt Hanson & Paul Murakami  
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## \*Postlude

## \*Please Stand if Able

This Week Consider Praying For Us to Experience God's Daily Presence:

- Through the work of Union's Worship & Commitment Committee
- That Union's worship services might draw us all closer to God
- That God might speak afresh through "Our Daily Bread" and our other prayer focused literature.

-That individual's might draw closer to God through Union's outdoor trail and website's daily devotion links.

-For more regular participation in "quiet times" of prayer with God

-That the time we and our loved ones spend with God in prayer is both fulfilling and fully filling by the Holy Spirit.