

Baptism of the Lord January 7, 2024

A LITURGY FOR EARTHKEEPING



www.riverofhopehutchinson.org Worship on Facebook Premiere, Sundays at 10:30am

Gathering

Music to Prepare Us For Worship

Welcome

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, we believe God meets you right where you are, and you are welcome here.

CALL TO WORSHIP

God of abundance, the land we walk on is holy ground.

Send forth your grace to help us heal the wounds of this world.

Open up the soil of our hearts to your word of life.

May we be strengthened by this time together and grow into who you are creating us to be.

OPENING SONG "Your River O God"

YOUR RIVER O GOD



Music to Bring Us Back Togethe:r (Chorus of "Your River O God")

CONFESSION

Sisters and brothers, we come to the God of mercy mindful that the world upon which we all depend is suffering. The sacred creation given to us, the immense beauty surrounding us, the complex web of life supporting us has been broken, not only by others, but by our own hand. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another. (silence)

Loving God, you have placed us as stewards within your creation. Instead, we have abused your gifts. The beauty and abundance of the earth is falling apart under us. God of all life....

We confess our part in a broken world.

One: You have multiplied your people beyond counting and have provided enough for all. But we have poisoned the waters, exhausted the soils and polluted the air. By our own hand we have spoiled the life-giving resources upon which we all depend. God of all life...

We confess our part in a broken world.

One: As Jesus' disciples, we are called to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and tend to the sick. Instead, we have taken the wealth of the world into our own houses and left your children in hunger and need. God of all life...

We confess our part in a broken world.

SONG OF MERCY "Mercy On This Fallen World"



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WORDS OF ASSURANCE

As surely as the rain comes forth to water the earth, God's mercy comes to us as a gift, abundant and freely given. The same God who created the cosmos and raised Jesus from death to life brings healing and forgiveness to the world today. You are loved, you are restored. In Christ, you are made new.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Time

SONG OF PRAISE "Praise To You"



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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

The eyes of all look to you, O God. Turn our hearts and minds to your open hand that provides for every living thing, so that we may know your generosity and participate in the healing and restoration of all that you have made, in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

The Word

(Reader): Our story and God's story continues today with two readings. First, a reading from Genesis chapter 1 verses 1-5.

(Reader): When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said,

(ALL): "Let there be light,"

(Reader): and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

(Reader): Our Second reading is from the Gospel of Mark chapter 1 verses 4-11.

SONG OF THE WORD "Hallelujah"



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(Reader): John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed,

(Side 1): "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and until the strap of his sandals.

(Side 2): I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

(Reader): In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens,

(ALL): "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

(Reader): Stay tuned for the continuing saga that is our story and God's story.

(ALL): Thanks be to God.

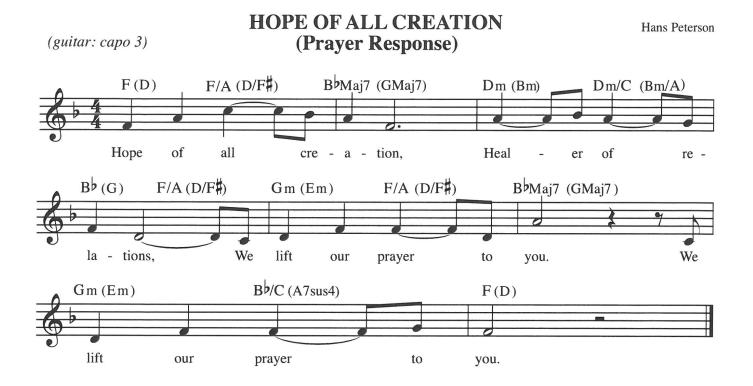
SERMON - Pastor Hans Peterson

SONG OF THE DAY "Made for Love"



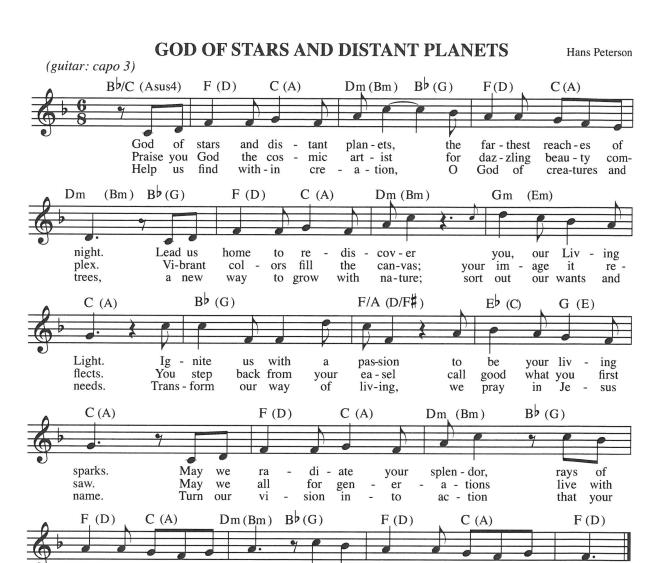
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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (respond with "Hope of all Creation")



OFFERING

OFFERING SONG "God of Stars and Distant Planets"



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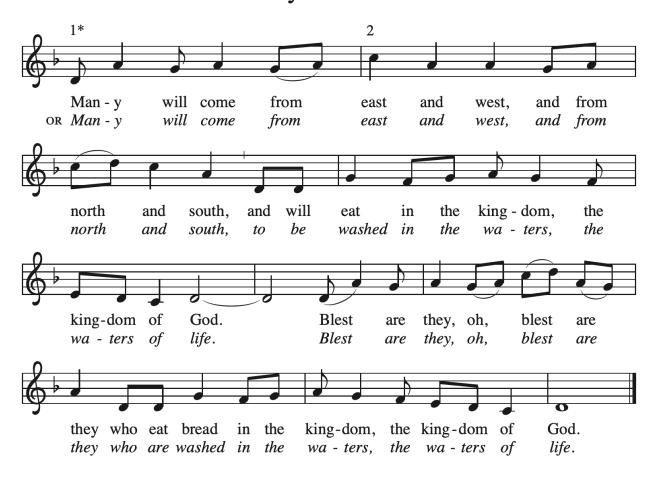
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The Feast

Setting the Table the children lead us as we pray together: Song: "Many Will Come"

Many Will Come



Invitation to the Meal

This is not my table or River of Hope's table, but rather this is Christ's table and all are welcome. If you hunger and thirst for grace and mercy that comes through Jesus Christ, then Christ has set this table just for you. Bring all that you are and all that you have to the table. You will be fed. You are forgiven. There is enough.

Let us pray, God of all good gifts who gives freely to us,

You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. Amen

Thanksgiving at the Table

The Lord is 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 God thanks and praise.

As we gather in this place, we remember, that in the night when Jesus was betrayed by his best friends, he took bread. He blessed it and broke it and gave it to these same friends saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup, blessed it and gave it for all to drink saying, "This is the new covenant, the new promise, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me." Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.
Forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever and forever. Amen.

The Meal

COMMUNION SONGS: "What Feast of Love" and "Joy to the World"

487

What Feast of Love



giv - en!

Joy to the World



Blessing after Communion

Now may the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his peace. **Amen.**

The Sending

Why does our church exist? What is our purpose? We go out to transform lives through Jesus Christ.

Purpose Sightings

MILESTONES! (Sing verse 4 of "Joy to the World")

It's time for sharing milestones - a time where we join together as a community to share the big, small, good, and hard milestones in our life.

BENEDICTION

May God our Creator bless and keep you, may Jesus, child of the earth, walk with you,

and may the Holy Spirit, wind and fire, give you hope and peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG "Go Now"



DISMISSAL

Go in peace, care for all creation.

Thanks be to God.

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Music to Send You Out

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