



PRELUDE

Bob Heyman

WELCOME

Pastor John

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLES (at FPC and in our homes)

Grete Hansen

We light these candles to remind ourselves of God's presence, not only in this place, but in all places. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the day the Lord has made:

**a day for praise and prayer;
a day for gratitude and generosity.**

This is the time God has given us:

**a time for singing and silence;
a time for speaking and listening.**

This is the life to which God calls us:

**a life of humility and service;
a life of faith and trust.**

PRAYER AND SILENT LISTENING TO GOD

Let us pray. Holy One, we thank you for the gift of the Bible, for its psalms and poems, myths and stories, histories, teachings, and prophecies. May the Holy Spirit who called out those ancient writings continue to call us out today, that our lives may reflect the first sermon of Jesus, our crucified and risen Christ, who brings good news to the poor and lets the oppressed go free. In this time of silence, open our hearts and our minds to hear your word.

SONG *Longing For Light (Christ Be Our Light)*

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Chorus

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church
gathered today.*

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. (*chorus*)

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. (*chorus*)

DISCOVERY TIME

Pastor John

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Grete Hansen

Let us confess our sins to God,
whose loving-kindness endures forever.

**Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.**

Silence, a time for personal confession.

Amen. People of God, hear the Good News:
The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

To God Be the Glory

To God be the glory; great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Chorus

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory: great things he has done!*

Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (*chorus*)

THE OFFERING

Pastor John

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 4:14-21

Grete Hansen

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee,
and a report about him spread through all the surrounding
country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised
by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him.

He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTING ON THE WORD

Pastor John

OUR PRAYERS TO GOD

Prayers of thanksgiving and petition may be offered, followed by:

Leader: Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(or in your preferred version)*

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

CLOSING RESPONSE

From where we are
to where you need us,
Jesus, now lead on.

From the security of what we know
to the adventure of what you will reveal,
Jesus, now lead on.

To refashion the fabric of this world
until it resembles the shape of your reign,
Jesus, now lead on.

Because good things have been prepared
for those who love God,
Jesus, now lead on.

Surround us with your presence,
inspire us with your purpose,
confirm us in your love.
Amen.

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG *Go Now In Peace*

Go now in peace, never be afraid.
God will go with you, each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
Know he will guide you in all you do.

Worship Leaders: Pastor John Chase, Grete Hansen, Music Director Jane Shelly,
Accompanist Jenny Smith, Bob Heyman

Credits

Art: Gogh, Vincent van, 1853-1890. Prisoners Exercising, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55362> [retrieved January 19, 2022]. Original source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Vincent_Willem_van_Gogh_037.jpg.

Call to Worship from Thom M. Shuman, <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/search?q=Luke+18%3A9-14>

Closing Response adapted from *A Wee Worship Book, Fourth Incarnation*, 2002, Wild Goose Worship Group, GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, 1999, p. 24, 79.

Music: *Longing For Light (Christ Be Our Light)*, TEXT: Bernadette Farrell, 1993; © 1993 Bernadette Farrell (Published by OCP)

Music: *To God Be the Glory*, TEXT Fanny Jane Crosby, 1875