

Our Service of Worship for January 31, 2021
The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Westwood First Presbyterian Church

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: "Sarabande"—Gordon Young
During the Prelude, you are invited to take a moment to prepare for worship.

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer

Hymn: "Live Into Hope" *

A Time of Confession

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:21-28 *

Sermon: "*Possessed*"

Solo: "In Native Worth" from "Creation"—Haydn Travis Pearce, tenor

The Pastoral Prayer and 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; 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.

Hymn: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" *

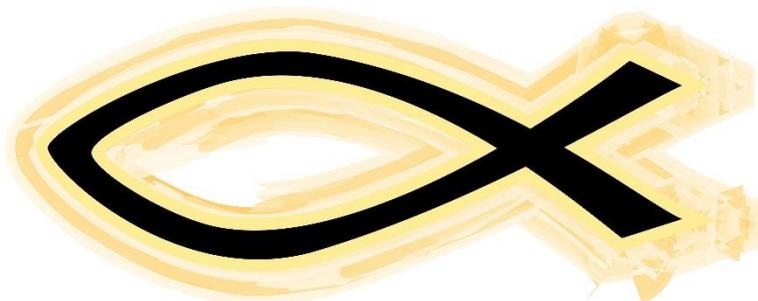
Charge and Benediction

Postlude: "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"—arr. Jason D. Payne

* The words to the hymns and the Scripture reading are included with the order of worship.

Rev. Dr. Jeff Colarossi
Pastor

Heather MacPhail
Organist/Director of Music Ministries



Live Into Hope

1. Live into hope of captives freed,
Of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
The year of God's own jubilee!
2. Live into hope the blind shall see
With insight and with clarity,
Removing shades of pride and fear,
A vision of our God brought near.
3. Live into hope of captives freed
From chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
To faith and hope and joy and peace.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1. A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our Helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate
On earth is not his equal
2. And though this world with devils filled should threaten to undo us;
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him
3. That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth;
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:21-39—Jesus' Early Ministry

²¹They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and 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."

²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They 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." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

²⁹As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³² That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴ And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” ³⁸ He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” ³⁹ And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.



Moment for Meditation—Divine Healing

Our God is a healing God who heals people today, much like He did when Jesus walked the planet and in the days of the early church. Access to divine healing is part of the abundant life that Jesus told his followers to expect as we come into his kingdom.

We see people receive healing weekly and sometimes daily—healing of every sort of disease, bondage, mindset, and trauma. God heals us not only physically, but He also heals our souls and our spirits, sometimes directly, but most often through the prayers of his people. We also work with medical professionals and appreciate and utilize modern medicine and psychology as well.

We encourage everyone to pray for healing, and many of us do. Divine healing is one of the most convincing demonstrations that God is with us today. Through healing prayer, Jesus can bring forgiveness of sins, physical healing, emotional healing, and spiritual healing. And He often does.

<https://holyspiritlesburg.org/prayer-and-healing-ministry/>

