



ORDER FOR THE  
PUBLIC WORSHIP *of* GOD

---

January 19, 2020  
*Epiphany Season*



## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Please prepare your heart for worship and silence your mobile devices.*

Our offertory anthem this morning, “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” was written in 1900 by James Weldon Johnson and John Rosamond Johnson. These brothers were born in the early 1870s and proved to be extremely gifted men, particularly James. He was a lawyer, serving under two American presidents as consult, and an accomplished writer and poet. James and John were considered very important figures in the Harlem Renaissance movement. Together they wrote and published more than 200 songs for Broadway theater as well as two books filled with African American spirituals.

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” is regarded as the African American national anthem because of its profound association with the struggle for equality and civil rights. It is taught at an early age in African American homes, schools, and churches, and is included in a number of different hymnals.

The lyrics and tune masterfully coalesce to show that God is our peace, even in the worst of circumstances. The song moves from celebration into a gloomy description of circumstance followed by an intense longing for God to remain ever present. While the mood of the stanzas becomes increasingly intense, each stanza concludes with a positive affirmation of trust and hope in God. Ultimately, this song is a prayer that, no matter how harsh our circumstances or how much we suffer, we remain in God’s embrace.

As we enter worship today, let us rejoice, for God alone is our hope and He is with us, even in the “weary years” and “silent tears.”

## PRAISE THE GOD OF GLORY

ORGAN PRELUDE: “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” . . . . . Paul Manz

*Samuel Metzger, organ*

INSTRUMENTAL MEDITATION: “Gabriel’s Oboe” . . . . . Ennio Marricone

*Kenneth Coca, cello; James Ryan, violin*

CALL TO WORSHIP . . . . . Brett Wynne

### ✦HYMN OF PRAISE:

No. 4 “From All that Dwells Below the Skies” . . . . . LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Words: Isaac Watts | Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, arr. Metzger | Psalm 117:1*

### ✦INVOCATION *(Please lift hands)*

✦PROPHETIC LESSON: Select verses from Isaiah 61 and 62 . . . . . Betty Eubank (8:15)

Rong Guo Zhou (11:00)

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;

**he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;**

to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;

**to comfort all who mourn;  
to grant to those who mourn in Zion—**

to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;

**that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.**

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;

**he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.**

For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,

**so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.**

✠ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE . . . . . MIT FREUDEN ZART

*Words: Robert Liddon / Music: Heinrich Reimann / Luke 2:13-14*

**Glory to God, His name we laud;  
Our Father, love He shows us.  
And to His Son our praises run;  
He understands and knows us.  
To Holy Ghost our thanks shall be,  
To God fore'er in persons three.  
His loving care enfolds us.**

SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM (8:15)

*William Micah Davis, born October 1, 2019, son of Mary Kathryn and Conner Davis*

SONG OF ENCOURAGEMENT: "Jesus Loves You" . . . . . JESUS LOVES ME

**Jesus loves you, this we know, for the Bible tells us so;  
Little ones to Him belong, you are weak but He is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves you! Yes, Jesus loves you!  
Yes, Jesus loves you! The Bible tells us so.**

## PRAISE THE GOD OF GRACE

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God of shalom,  
You have loved us with a love beyond our understanding,  
and You have set us on paths of righteousness for Your name's sake.  
Yet we have strayed from Your way:  
You asked for our mouths to speak out against injustice;  
we gave You a whisper that we might not be accused.  
You asked for our eyes to see the pain of poverty;  
we closed them, for we did not want to see.  
You asked for our lives that You might work through us;  
we gave a small part that we might not get too involved.  
Lord, forgive our half-hearted affections toward You  
and our calculated efforts to serve You.  
Grant us now, we pray, the grace to die daily to sin  
and to rise daily to new life in Christ.  
Renew us and send us out as Your instruments of grace  
as we press on toward the glorious day to come.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON. . . . . Ephesians 1:7-8

*In him we have redemption through his blood,  
the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,  
which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight.*

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE GIFTS OF GOD

*In addition to cash and check, you may give electronically at www.2pc.org/give or text SECOND followed by the gift amount to (901) 410-9500. To give to World Missions, text WORLD followed by an amount to the same number.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "Lift Every Voice and Sing" . . . . . arr. Roland Carter

*Words and Music: J. Rosamond Johnson, James Weldon Johnson; arr. Roland Carter / James 5:13*

Lift every voice and sing, 'til earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty,  
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the list'ning skies.  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died  
Yet with a steady beat have not our weary feet come  
To the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been water'd.  
O, we have come treading our path thro' the blood of the slaughter'd  
Out of the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way.  
Thou who hast by Thy might led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee.  
Lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world we forget Thee  
Shadow'd beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand  
True to our God, true to our native land. Amen.

*The Chancel Choir  
Emily Taylor, director*

✦DOXOLOGY . . . . . OLD HUNDREDTH

**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.**

✦PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING . . . . . Jon McGuirt

✦GREETINGS

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN

PRAISE THE GOD OF TRUTH

✦PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER *(please stand)*

**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 OF PREPARATION:

No. 477 "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life" . . . . . CITYSERVE

*Words: Frank North, Robert Liddon / Music: Buddy Greene, arr. Liddon / Acts 20:24*

SCRIPTURE LESSON ..... Hebrews 11:8-16  
(page 1007 in the pew Bible)

The grass withers, the flower fades,

**but the Word of our God will stand forever.** (*Isaiah 40:8*)

SERMON

*Seeking a Better Country*

Michael Aitcheson

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

✦HYMN OF COMMITMENT: No. 500 "There Is a Balm in Gilead" . . . BALM IN GILEAD

*Words: African-American Spiritual / Music: arr. Metzger / Jeremiah 8:22*

✦BENEDICTION (*please lift hands*)

✦CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "Carillon de Longpont" . . . . . Louis Vierne

✦Indicates congregation standing

CCLI License #252778

# Gospel Priorities

**Each Sunday in January, we will hear from a guest pastor during morning and evening worship on the themes of justice, reconciliation, and diversity for the purpose of becoming the church Christ has redeemed us to be.**

## **Our Speaker Today**

Michael Aitcheson is the Organizing Pastor of Christ United Fellowship (PCA) in Orlando. He was born in Miami and received a B.S. in Social Work from the University of Kentucky, where he played football from 2002-2006. He completed a Master of Divinity at Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando, in 2011. He and his wife, Lucy, have four children.

He will return at 6:00 p.m. for the Sunday Night Worship Service in the Sanctuary. We invite you to worship with us.

## **Series Closing Speaker**

**January 26:** Michael Davis, *Downtown Church, Memphis, TN*