

Worship Service: Sunday January 15, 2017
2nd Sunday after Epiphany
Theme: "Empowered by the Holy Spirit to share in Christ's Work"

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

*Call to Worship:

One: Let us worship God, and consider the wonderful signs that have been shown us:

Many: God's Spirit hovers over the shadowy waters of creation, forming each one of us.

One: Let us worship God, and consider the wonderful signs that have been shown us:

Many: God's Spirit break through the watery clouds revealing the arrival of the Messiah.

One: Let us worship God, and consider the wonderful signs that have been shown us:

Many: God's Spirit continues to break into our world, cleansing us with water and offering us new life in Christ.

One: O come let us worship God!

Many: For God has shown us wonderful signs!

***Song/Hymn of Adoration:** "Be still, for the presence of the Lord"

Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here
Come bow before Him now, with reverence and fear
In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground
Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here

Be still for the glory of the Lord, is shining all around
He burns with holy fire, with splendor He is crowned
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light
Be still for the glory of the Lord, is shining all around

Be still for the power of the Lord, is moving in this place
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace
No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him
Be still for the power of the Lord, is moving in this place

CCLI Song # 120824 David J. Evans

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*God's Greeting (from 2 Corinthians 13:14)

(Our Lord has called us to worship and now greets us.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

(As God has greeted us with his peace,
so let us pass the peace of Christ to each other.

*The Sharing of the Peace (We greet each other saying, "**The Peace of Christ be with you**")

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

Prayer of Confession in Word and Song: "**There's a sweet, sweet Spirit**"

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Chorus

Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love.
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived,
When we shall leave this place.

There are blessings you cannot receive
Till you know Him in His fullness and believe;
You're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way."

If you say He saved you from your sin,
Now you're weak, you're bound and cannot enter in,

You can make it right if you will yield,
You'll enjoy the Holy Spirit that we feel.

(Prayer of Confession – woven into song:

God, with the ardent love of a mother,
you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost.
In him, you offer us the gift of new life and forgiveness before we have
even begun to understand the depth of our sin and alienation.
We confess that we have not fully accepted this gift.
We have been misled by false gods and fleeting desires;
and we choose novelty over new life.
We seek love and approval in places that have no permanence or
meaning.
We turn to ourselves for strength, relying on our feeble powers and wit
instead of lifting our voices to you, the giver of all good gifts.
We trade in lives with purpose for convenience and pleasure, failing to
remember that abundance is found in living lovingly and generously as
we seek your kingdom.
Help us to remember who we are and whose we are.
Help us to remember that our baptism is always with us, unfolding each
day with new promise.

Assurance of God's Pardon:

Rejoice all people, for God has put a new song in our mouths and has set
our feet upon a rock, making our steps secure. Trust in God, for God's love
is enduring and breaks through boundaries and realms in order to bring
each of us home. Know this love seeks you and offers you forgiveness this
day and every day.
Amen.

Song: **"There is a Redeemer"** Bop # 358

Youth message: **"God's Eyewitnesses"**

Youth Song: **"I know the Lord's laid His hands on me."** Bop #579

GOD SPEAKS TO US FROM HIS WORD

Prayer for Understanding

The Reading of Scripture:

Psalm 40: 1-12

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: **“Called into Fellowship with Christ”**

Text: 1 Corinthians 1: 4-9

Theme: “Called into Spiritual Fellowship with Christ”

4 I give thanks to my^[b] God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— 6 just as the testimony of^[c] Christ has been strengthened among you— 7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Corinth was a very bad place.

This city was located in Southern Greece and West of Athens and right along the trade routes in Paul's day.

Perhaps because of the significant trading that took place little by little corruption became a way of life.

Corinth became a great center for international commerce and great quantities of traffic came through this city.

People travelling from all walks of life somehow ended up here to get a piece of the pie; there were buyers and sellers, traders and merchants, hoarders and money changers.

There were also many passersby with strange forms of religion and this cause Corinth to become the center for the grossest form of immorality, so that the name Corinth was a by word for all that was impure and sensual. So lewd was the City's reputation, there was even a verb coined, **korinthiazomai**, which meant to live a debased life.

Paul had come to Corinth though on his second missionary journey (Acts 18). He first laboured among the Jews who rejected his message and so he turned to the Gentiles. As he preached to the Gentiles souls were saved and a church was formed.

After Paul left the church ran into trouble and many questions began to be asked by the believers because they somehow wanted to know how to survive as followers of Christ in this context. One of the things they wanted to know was how they should survive as Christians even as they had to live in a wordly context with so much corruption.

We too find ourselves living in a sinful world and are expected to maintain a high standard of morality as we live the Christian life. As we try our best to maintain our spiritual balance in his world remember some things from this text:

1. Our survival depends on God's grace

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them--yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. 1 Cor 15:10

2. We are constantly strengthened and guided by God's spirit

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? 1 Cor 3:16

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 1 cor 6:19

3. Our faithful God journeys with us always.

1 Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability,

but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Psalms 91:4 He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

Psalm 23: Yea , though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil because God is with me, his rod and his staff will comfort me.

Hymn of Response: **“Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine”** Bop # 687

Prayers of God's People, concluding with the Lord's Prayer

WE BRING OUR GIFTS

Work and Witness of our Church

A Time of Giving

*Sung Response: **“Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow”** BoP#79

WE LEAVE WITH CHRIST'S PEACE

*The Benediction

*Recessional Hymn: **“Lord Jesus, You shall be my song”** Bop # 665