

# Nurture Good News

*"For all of you share in God's grace." (Philippians 1:7)*



## INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN THE OLD STONE CHURCH OF INDEPENDENCE

### SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

*February 23, 2025*



C.J. Briggs, Music Director  
Julie Lehmann, Church Secretary

Nancy Bair, Liturgist  
Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor

*The connective tissue between Jesus' teaching and ministry are what resulted in the large crowds following Jesus and the growth of the early church. ~ Ralph Watkins*

## ~ *GATHERING TOGETHER* ~

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Luke 5:10; Philippians 1:7)*

Do not be afraid, from now on you will be fishing for people.

**For all of us share in God's grace.**

### \*GATHERING

### CALLED AS PARTNERS

GTG #761

by Jane Parker Huber (NETTLETON)

*Verse 1*

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on Psalm 138, from TOGETHER WE PRAY)*

*I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness.*

We give you thanks, glorious one,  
**for your mercy endures forever.**

May all the rulers on earth bow to your steadfast love.

**May the whole world praise the work of your hands.**

You lift the lowly and humble the haughty.

**You strengthen the weak and exhaust the mighty.**

You deliver the troubled and plague the powerful.

**We bow in praise to you, loving God,**

and pray your ways are fulfilled in all places.

**May your steadfast love endure forever.**

Come, let us worship God.

### \*HYMN

### WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME

GTG #726

by John Bell and Graham Maule

KELVINGROVE

### POURING THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

### CHILDREN OF GOD

### LITANY OF SENDING

One: Let us send our kids with God's love:

All: **May God be with you there.**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Lord of hosts, forgive us for the ways we have fallen short. You ask us to look to the margins and care for the lost; we center ourselves. You ask us to give away; we grab for more. You ask us to love one another; we cannot see beyond our divisions. The world is full of violence. Forgive us. Help us. We call on you, our beloved, our help, our God, our hope. Amen.

*[Silent Confession]*

**\*RESPONSE**

LORD, HAVE MERCY  
Russian Orthodox Chant

GTG #579  
KYRIE ELEISON (Orthodox)

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *(based on Philippians 1:6-7)*

For we all share in the grace of God:  
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE** *(from Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow)*

The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

**SPREAD THE WORD**

OUTREACH TEAM

**~ SHARING IN THE GOSPEL ~**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**

ACTS 6:1-7

*Pew Bible p.116(OT)*

**GOSPEL LESSON**

LUKE 5:1-11

*Pew Bible p.58(NT)*

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God's people.  
**For all of us share in God's grace.**

**SERMON**

SERVING GOD'S JUSTICE

**~ TENDING THE GOOD NEWS ~**

**\*HYMN**

LORD, YOU HAVE COME TO THE LAKESHORE  
by Cesáreo Gabaráin

GTG #721  
PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(from the Confession at Belhar)*

We believe: that God wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people; that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged; that God calls the church to follow God in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;

We believe: that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

## **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**RESPONSE**

**DOXOLOGY**

**GTG #606**

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## **BLESSING FOR BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS** *(from Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie)*

*A celebration of and blessing for outgoing Church Secretary Julie Lehmann*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **~ GOING FORTH TO NURTURE ~**

**\*HYMN**

**MAY THE GOD OF HOPE GO WITH US**

**GTG #765**

by Alvin Schutmaat

**ARGENTINA**

**\*BENEDICTION** *(from Philippians 1:7, 9, MSG)*

So this is my prayer:

**that our love may flourish more and more.**

## **POSTLUDE**

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Pieces of today's liturgy are from: *Book of Common Worship* (PCUSA)

**6624 Public Square; Independence, Ohio 44131**

**ipcusa.org ~ (216) 524-6307 ~ [office@ipcusa.org](mailto:office@ipcusa.org)**

**Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor ~ [pastor@ipcusa.org](mailto:pastor@ipcusa.org)**