

Covenant Congregational Church

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Service of Worship

February 5, 2017

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Jesus, I am Resting

McKibben

WELCOME

Kirstie Wheeler

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We are here today because the weeping Mary of Magdala once said:

“I have seen the Lord!”

We are here because Jesus still comes into our locked spaces and says:

“Peace be with you. Receive the Holy Spirit.”

We are here today like doubting Thomas who finally cried:

“My Lord and my God.”

We are here like Peter, tempted to forget the call of Jesus:

“I’m going fishing.”

We’re here this morning because of Jesus, who asks us face-to-face:

“Do you truly love me?”

We gather here to whisper timidly.

“Yes, Lord, you know that we love you.”

We are here as a congregation only because many faithful disciples have listened to Jesus’ words:

“Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid! Go and tell, ‘Jesus has been raised!’”

*HYMN

Christ, You Call Us All to Service

614

THE WORD OF GOD

Heather Willis

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a, (9b-12) NRSV (Old Testament page 688)

58 Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

2 Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

3 “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,

and oppress all your workers. **4** Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. **5** Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

6 Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. **9** Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, **10** if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

11 The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

12 Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

New Testament Reading: John 20:24-29 NRSV (New Testament page 115)

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” **27** Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” **28** Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” **29** Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Response: The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Confession

(inspired by Isaiah 58: 1-9)

Isaiah reminds us that our prayer, fasting and pious ritual must be lived out in compassion and justice:

When we forget the fast you desire— To do justice, and stand up for the powerless:

Lord, have mercy.

When we forget the prayer you love—

To show compassion, and care for those in need:

Christ, have mercy.

When we forget the rituals you require—
To create relationships of righteousness and peace:

Lord have mercy.

Words of Assurance

Friends, the love of God revealed in Jesus
forgives us, heals us and sets us free to rebuild, restore,
and raise up foundations for new generations.
With thanksgiving, let us offer one another a sign of Peace.

*HYMN *We Walk By Faith* 349

(Children K through 3rd grade are dismissed to Junior Church at this time)

MEDITATION "Beelieving" Pastor Jason O. Mohn

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Choral Anthem *Bread and Wine of Life* Schramm

The Invitation

+ *In the center of each bread tray is a small cup filled with gluten free bread* +

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 sins as we forgive those who sin
against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for
thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory *How Deep the Father's Love for Us* arr. Hayes

*Doxology 48

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

* Prayer of Dedication

*CHORUS OF FAITH *Be the Centre* insert

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *Be the Centre* Frye

*Please stand in praise to God, if able
CCLI #982653



Welcome to Covenant Congregational Church

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www.ecovchurch.org

Thank you for participating in our worship gathering! We are glad that you are here
this morning and pray that this might be a meaningful faith-building experience for you
and/or your family. To more deeply connect with this faith community, we invite you to
stay following our worship gathering and enjoy a time of refreshments and fellowship in
our Fireside Room and Narthex.