

# Covenant Congregational Church

## Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Service of Worship      January 29, 2017      10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE	<i>Jesus Calls Us</i>	arr. Smith
INTROIT	<i>Come into His Presence</i>	Anonymous
WELCOME		Sheri Anderson

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

What does the Lord require of you?

**To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.**

What does God command of us?

**To love God with all our heart, and all our soul, and all our mind,  
and all our strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.**

God does not call us to ease or to comfort.

**But to presence, and abundance, and grace in our struggle.**

Let us worship the God who believes in us, and trusts in us, and abides with us.

**Let us worship the God who will ask much of us,  
but will be beside us every step of the way.**

\*HYMN      *Lord Jesus, Fill My Days*      378

### \*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Eternal God, we praise you for your priceless gift of Scripture! You shine light on the path of life, so that we may align ourselves with your saving purposes. Strengthen us by the power of your Holy Spirit and bless our partnerships with interfaith congregations. Help us to reach out to show your kindness to our neighbors. Give us courage to become more generous in every realm of our lives. We pray this in our holy name. Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD      Bob Buckley

Old Testament Reading:      Micah 6:1-8      NRSV (Old Testament page 866)

<sup>6</sup> Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup> Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth;  
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup> "O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup> For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,

and redeemed you from the house of slavery;  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup> O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

<sup>6</sup> "With what shall I come before the LORD,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup> Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

<sup>8</sup> He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

New Testament Reading:      Ephesians 5:1-20      NRSV (New Testament page 194)

<sup>5</sup> <sup>1</sup> Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, <sup>2</sup> and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

<sup>3</sup> But fornication and impurity of any kind, or greed, must not even be mentioned among you, as is proper among saints. <sup>4</sup> Entirely out of place is obscene, silly, and vulgar talk; but instead, let there be thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup> Be sure of this, that no fornicator or impure person, or one who is greedy (that is, an idolater), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

<sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup> Therefore do not be associated with them. <sup>8</sup> For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— <sup>9</sup> for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup> Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup> but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you."

<sup>15</sup> Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery;

but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Response: The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Sheri Anderson

\*HYMN *Take My Life and Let It Be* (v. 1-4) 375

*(Children K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are dismissed to Junior Church at this time)*

SERMON "Beehaving" Pastor Jason O. Mohn

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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

Choral Anthem *Lord of the Morning* arr. Martin 48

\*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

\*HYMN *Take My Life and Let It Be* (v. 5) 375

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Alleluia* Traditional

\*POSTLUDE *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* arr. Ijames

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

**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.



## "Beehaving"

From the Sermon Series: Bee the Church

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