

**5th SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
GATHER IN GOD’S NAME**

(*=please stand if you are able)

Prelude (A time for Silence and Reflection)

Welcome

Opening Prayer

L: We are called to the work of Israel, to the work of Jesus.

P: We are called to spread God’s love in this world.

L: We can do this work, as we are, because of the Holy Spirit.

P: By God’s grace, we are salt.

L: We purify, we cleanse, we bind, we bring out the best in people.

P: By God’s grace, we are light.

L: We allow things to be seen as they are. We point to holiness.

P: By God’s grace, we follow the commandments and the law.

L: We love the Lord our God and our neighbors as ourselves.

P: By God’s grace, we are salt. We are light. God transforms us and uses us.

L: Let us worship our God, so full of transformative grace.

Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez

Hymn of the Month GTG# 519

“You Are My Strength When I Am Weak”

Call to Confession

In worship, everyone is welcome as they are. We invite each other to set our burdens down, including the burden of false pretenses. Let us be honest with God and with our selves about the ways that we fail so that we can hear the good news of Jesus’ redemption anew. Let us confess our sins together and individually

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you have called us to bring out the best in the world around us, to be bold in our faith, to share your love with those around us. We have failed your command. We choose conflict. We choose laziness. We choose excuses. Forgive us for rejecting the identity that you offer us freely, for rejecting the work of your Holy Spirit in our hearts.

Silent Confession

Assurance of pardon

Leader: Even when we fail, even when we are not perfect, God still claims us. God still calls us by name. God still places God’s Spirit upon us.

P: We are known and loved and forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen!

***Gloria Patri**

Gloria, Gloria, Gloria! Yesterday, today and forever, Gloria
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Prayer for illumination

Guide us, O God, by your Word, and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 58:1-9(a)

Shout loudly; don’t hold back; raise your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their crime, to the house of Jacob their sins. They seek me day after day, desiring knowledge of my ways like a nation that acted righteously, that didn’t abandon their God. They ask me for righteous judgments, wanting to be close to God. “Why do we fast and you don’t see; why afflict ourselves and you don’t notice?” Yet on your fast day you do whatever you want, and oppress all your workers. You quarrel and brawl, and then you fast; you hit each other violently with your fists. You shouldn’t fast as you are doing today if you want to make your voice heard on high. Is this the kind of fast I choose, a day of self-affliction, of bending one’s head like a reed and of lying down in mourning clothing and ashes? Is this what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Isn’t this the fast I choose: releasing wicked restraints, untying the ropes of a yoke, setting free the mistreated, and breaking every yoke? Isn’t it sharing your bread with the hungry and bringing the homeless poor into your house, covering the naked when you see them, and not hiding from your own family? Then your light will break out like the dawn, and you will be healed quickly. Your own righteousness will walk before you, and the Lord’s glory will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and God will say, “I’m here.” If you remove the yoke from among you, the finger-pointing, the wicked speech;

L: This is the word God. **P: Thanks be to God.**

Anthem:

“You are the Light of the World”

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 5:13-20

“You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its saltiness, how will it become salty again? It’s good for nothing except to be thrown away and trampled under people’s feet. You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can’t be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven. “Don’t even begin to think that I have come to do away with the Law and the Prophets. I haven’t come to do away with them but to fulfill them. I say to you very seriously that as long as heaven and

earth exist, neither the smallest letter nor even the smallest stroke of a pen will be erased from the Law until everything there becomes a reality. Therefore, whoever ignores one of the least of these commands and teaches others to do the same will be called the lowest in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever keeps these commands and teaches people to keep them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. I say to you that unless your righteousness is greater than the righteousness of the legal experts and the Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

L: This is the word of the Lord. **P: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“You Are The Salt of the Earth”

Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez

Hymn GTG#401

“Here in This Place” (verses 1,2)

THE EUCHARIST

***Invitation to the table**

***Breaking of the Bread**

Hymn GTG#401

“Here in This Place” (verses 3,4)

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Words of Gratitude

Friends, we have confessed our sins; we have reminded each other of our forgiveness; we have heard the Word of God proclaimed. Let us respond by offering God what we hold as precious, whether that is our money, time or talents.

RESPOND IN GRACE

Offertory GTG#693

“Though I May Speak” (verses 1 & 2)

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

*** Doxology GTG#693**

“Though I May Speak” (verse 3)

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control;
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

Prayer of Dedication

Heavenly Parent, we offer you these gifts. Please bless them, just as you bless those who gave them and those who will receive them. May the sharing of these gifts remind us of the connection that holds us all together and the beloved community you call us to form. Amen.

Prayers of the People (See [backpage](#))

***Lord’s Prayer**

Hymn GTG #757

“Today We All Are Called to be Disciples”

Announcements

Benediction

God is Good! All the time! All the Time! God is Good!

Beloveds, you are the salt of the earth. Go, today, with the Spirit and bring out the best of the world — the goodness that God has already created. Purify. Cleanse. Bind. And remember that this imperative from God is to the church. Let us spread God’s love in the world as a community because we cannot do it alone. Amen

The Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you

People: And also with you

Amen

Postlude

Prayers of the People

Creator God, we gather this morning with our siblings in Christ across the world to worship you. Thank you for all the ways that you bless us — for the gift of a warm cup of coffee, for the love of a sister, for warm, winter coats, for the luxury of naps. You are so good.

We know that you accompany us every day, God, and that you bless us in small and large ways. But we also know that this life is hard. It is full of sadness, of loneliness, of illness, of fear and of hatred. Heavenly Parent, we remember those who are struggling — those that we know intimately and those who we have never met. We lift them up to you now.

Lord, you have called us to share your love with the world. Empower us to do so. Empower us to work for good and to make a positive change. Please guide our political leaders. Please guide our community organizers. Please bless medical professionals and nonprofit workers and parents and volunteers and everyone who works, in small and big ways, to bring about kindness and love.

Unifying God, we pray for the universal church. We pray specifically this morning for our siblings in Christ who we do not agree with. May religion and tradition not distract us from the movement of your Spirit. May we find a way to stand united with other Jesus-followers without turning away from injustice.

God of all creation, we pray for those who are suffering from natural disasters. We pray for California and all of the rain it has been receiving. We pray for those in Kentucky, still recovering from Tornados and floods. We pray for those on the Gulf Coast still recovering from hurricanes.

All-knowing God, you know us our deepest, truest selves and so you know the prayer requests we carry. But the miracle of prayer is that there is something in the naming of our needs and worries and pain that connects us to you. And so, with faith in your compassion, we pray for those in our community.

Christ, you are alive. You are present. You are working in the world. And it is in your name that we pray together the way you taught us, “Our Father...”.

Church Officers

Session

2023	2024	2025
Rich Ellison, Bob Supina, Elizabeth Otu		Sara Lima, Tom Clemmens

Deacons

2023	2024	2025
Lisa Clemmens, David Njie	Nancy, McIntyre, Jonathan Oh	Kyle Craig



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MINISTERS
All the Members

“A multicultural congregation worshipping together where Jesus Christ is Lord; where men, women, and children share in leadership; and where the strength of our fellowship builds bridges to the community.”

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EVENTS HAPPENING IN 2023

- In person Hybrid worship at 11AM
- English Bible Study Thursday's at 11:00AM.
- Spanish Bible Study will be Wednesday's at 10:00AM.
- Prayer Time on Friday's at 11AM via zoom.
- Annual Congregational Meeting will take place today following worship. This will be a hybrid service.
- Session Meeting Monday, February 9th at 7PM via zoom

-Zoom worship Service at 11:00AM

By Computer/Por Computadora

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/870270865>

Meeting ID: 870 270 865

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,870270865# US (New York)

+13126266799,,870270865# US (Chicago)

By Phone/Por teléfono

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 870 270 865

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/870270865>

Prayers and Praise

Please pray for everyone in leadership

Please pray for children/ families

Please pray for the Otu family

Please pray for the Supina/Ruess family

Please pray for the Sevilla family

Please pray for people struggling with cancer for healing

Please pray for leaders, people in a position of authority

Please pray for Israel, Palestine and Ukraine

Please Pray for the Denzer Family

Please pray for Heather Blenkinsopp

Please pray for Raquel Welty

Please pray for Theresa

Pleas pray for Fior

Praise Songs and Hymns

You Are My Strength When I Am Weak;

You are my strength when I am weak;
you are the treasure that I seek;
you are my all in all.

When I fall down, you pick me up;
when I am dry, you fill my cup;
you are my all in all.

Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name!
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name!

Here in This Place

Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young; our lives are a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away:
here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom, and now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

What Does the Lord Require of You?

Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,
to help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword,
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,
to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race
to live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud; we sow not peace but strife.
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,
with righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,
a world that was created for a harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God act out the living word,
and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord
to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.