

## ***Second Sunday after Epiphany***

***January 17, 2010***

***Worship 8:00 and 10:30***

### ***GATHERING FOR WORSHIP***

Prelude

\* Call to Worship

One: God, whose steadfast love fills the universe, rejoices in our presence here today.

**All: We feel secure in the shadow of God's great love.**

One: God seeks to break through the barriers we erect. God desires to show us acceptance.

**All: We are overwhelmed by God's grace to us.**

One: God blesses us with gifts and inspires us to use them well.

**All: Let us worship this glorious God.**

\* Gathering Hymn                      *"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"*                      #1

\* Call to Confession

If you feel a sense of powerlessness before evil, if you are aware of moments of emptiness in your life, if you feel abandoned or forsaken from time to time, if you desire a deeper and richer relationship with the creator and sustainer of all things, join me in confession.

\* Prayer of Confession

**We are in need of your help, O God. We have tried to live by our own designs rather than seek your purposes. We have become mired in our mistakes and then imagined that you do not care. We have suffered the agonies of loss and have blamed you rather than sought the help you alone can give. We have given you little of our time but expect you to always be available to us. Help us to recognize our true needs and to accept your guidance. Come to us, O Holy One, in the silence of these moments and enable us to feel accepted and renewed.**

\* Silent Reflection

\* Words of Hope

God offers us salvation. God enables us to be transformed. God liberates and vindicates us. God seeks to help us resurrect the beauty that is in us. Remember, God knows your name and rejoices in who you are to become.

## **OPENING OURSELVES TO THE VOICE OF GOD**

The Scripture Lesson      Isaiah 62:1-5

Chancel Choir Anthem

A Time for Young Christians

(Prayer requests and guest forms will be collected by ushers at the side aisles.)

The Morning Message      **"I Am God's Child"**

An Affirmation

*I may be young, I may be old,  
**but I am somebody, for I am God's child.***

*I may be educated, I may be unlettered,  
**but I am somebody, for I am God's child.***

*I may be black, I may be white,  
**but I am somebody, for I am God's child.***

*I may be rich, I may be poor,  
**but I am somebody, for I am God's child.***

*I may be fat, I may be thin,  
**but I am somebody, for I am God's child.***

*I may be married, I may be divorced,  
**but I am somebody, for I am God's child.***

*I may be successful, I may be a failure,  
**but I am somebody, for I am God's child.***

*I may be a sinner, I may be a saint,  
**but I am somebody, for I am God's child. Amen!***

\* Hymn

"God of Change and Glory"

#177

## **EXPRESSING OUR FAITH**

Joining Our Voices in Prayer

We have been richly blessed in life, O God. Most of us have been surrounded by people who have cared for us and loved us and who have been concerned about us as we've grown and developed. We have grown from being helpless and dependent, to a stage in our life, where we experience a degree of self-sufficiency. And we have been encouraged and supported along the way, by people who have loved us and cared for us as we've experienced both bad times as well as good times.

Gradually, through our participation in the church, our understanding has evolved so that we have become aware that such human love was patterned upon a greater love, Divine love. So we thank you for the gifts that have enriched our lives.

On this day, when we prepare to remember and celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., one of the prophets you sent to broaden our perspective and open our eyes to the need for more justice, help us to see the continuing need for spreading your message of love and acceptance. Enable us to see how important and precious every single life is to you. And empower each of us to do what we can to help others see and hear and experience the glory and grace of your Good News. May your dream of a world of love and acceptance, freedom and equality, justice and peace, for all your people, be one day a reality.

And now, be attentive to us as we lift up our individual thoughts and prayer.

(Silent and spoken prayers may be added by the congregation.)

#### 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

#### Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

##### \* Offertory Response

(Tune #148)

*Bring gifts of incense, gold, and myrrh; come, join in jubilation;*

*The Holy Child, though meek and mild, has come with God's salvation.*

*Raise, raise the song on high, the mother sings her lullaby;*

*Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mary!*

##### \*Offering Prayer

### **GOING FORTH TO WITNESS**

##### \* Closing Hymn

"Be Not Dismayed"

#460

##### \* Benediction

##### \* Musical Postlude