



John Knox  
Presbyterian Church

January 29, 2023

Fourth Sunday  
after Epiphany

*Please be seated and prepare your hearts for worship.*

### WE PREPARE TO RECEIVE THE WORD

**Gathering Music**

“The Old Rugged Cross”

Bennard

**Words of Welcome**

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

**Prelude**

“The Old Rugged Cross” (con’t)

**\* Call to Worship**

*We are blessed when we hunger for justice and thirst for reconciliation.*

**Our souls are nourished by God’s hope and grace.**

*We are blessed when we grieve over the brokenness of the world,*

**Choosing as God does, to be with those who are weak and powerless.**

*We are blessed when we become God’s fools,*

**Willing to do what is right and good, not what is easy.**

**\* Hymn**

“Here in This Place”

#401

**\* Call to Confession**

**\* Unison Prayer of Confession**

**How do we approach you, Exalted God,  
with our confessions?**

**We make you weary with our inability  
to do justice for the poor and outcast.**

**We gossip about those who are close to us,  
instead of being their loving friend.**

**We make promises, and then go back on our word.**

**Forgive us, God of Hope,  
and bless us with your mercy.**

**By your peace, we can do justice.**

**By your love, we can act kindly.**

**By our grace, we can walk with you as humbly,  
and hopefully as did our Savior, Jesus Christ.**

*~~~~Silent Reflection~~~~*

**\* Words of Assurance**

*It is through foolishness that God makes us wise.  
It is through weakness that God strengthens us to serve.  
It is through forgiveness that God makes us whole.*

**We cannot boast in what we have done,  
but only in the grace and joy of our God,  
who showers us with mercy. Amen.**

**\* Response**

“Glory to God”

#583

**WE RECEIVE THE WORD**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Old Testament Reading**

Micah 6: 1-8

NRSV

Hear what the LORD says:

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

“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!  
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.

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.”

“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?  
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?”

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?

**Epistle Reading**

1 Corinthians 1: 18-31

NRSV

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are  
being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age?  
Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God,  
the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness  
of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks  
desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness  
to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God  
and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s  
weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human  
standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what  
is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the

strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

### Time with Our Children

**Sermon** “The Foolishness Continues” Rev. Eileen Parfrey

## WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

**Hymn** “Blest Are They” #172  
*Anna will sing the first verse; congregation join on 2<sup>nd</sup> verse*

**Prayers of the People - Pastoral Prayer**  
*Lord, in your mercy ... hear our prayers.*

**The Lord’s Prayer** *traditional*

### Church and Community Life

**Minute for Mission** Vanessa Waits, Cummings Elementary

### Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

**Call for the Offering**

**Offertory** “Lamp of Our Feet” Robert J Powell

\* **Sung Response** “Give Thanks” *adapted #647*

\* **Prayer of Dedication**

## WE GO FORTH TO PRACTICE OUR FAITH

\* **Sending Song** “What Does the Lord Require of You?” #70

\* **Charge and Blessing**

*May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you  
wherever he may lead you;  
May he guide you through the wilderness,  
protect you through the storm;  
May he bring you home rejoicing  
at the wonders he has shown you;  
May he bring you home rejoicing  
once again into our doors.*

*Please be seated to enjoy the postlude.*

**Postlude** “Prayer of St. Francis” Carol McClure

*This service is being recorded and will be posted on our website for a week.  
Invite your friends or family to join us in worship!*

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Liturgist: Sheila Cunningham  
Pianist: Bethany Cozort

Guest Preacher: Rev. Eileen Parfrey  
Music Director: Anna Robinson

Offering Prayers adapted from [lifeinliturgy.wordpress.com/2017/01/18/epiphany-4a/](http://lifeinliturgy.wordpress.com/2017/01/18/epiphany-4a/) (Creative Commons)

## Church and Community Life

Please extend a warm welcome to **Rev. Eileen Parfrey**, who is preaching at JKPC today. Eileen is a retired pastor who now serves as a spiritual director at the Franciscan Spiritual Center in Marylhurst. For more information about the Center, see their website at [francisspctr.com/](http://francisspctr.com/) or talk with Eileen during fellowship time. Also, please welcome Ralph, Eileen's companion during children's time, who believes he is a puppy. He is in second grade, still deciding what he wants to be when he grows up.

**Fellowship** after worship has been very popular and well-attended during the last 3 months. If you have enjoyed visiting with friends and guest pastors after worship while enjoying some refreshments, please see Vallory to learn more about how you can pitch in to help with this time-honored tradition at John Knox – no one does coffee hour like we do! We need your help to continue offering this time together.

**2023 PER CAPITA** is \$45.60 per member. Per capita is a set amount of money — sometimes referred to as “apportionment” — per member that every PC(USA) congregation pays to the larger/national church. Because we all share in the benefit of the PC(USA)’s system of government, the expenses associated with performing the functions of that system are shared by everyone. Part of our per capita supports the work of our Presbytery Stated Clerk Paul Belz-Templeman and the Administrative Manager, Cherie Elliott. If you can pay your own per capita and perhaps a bit more to cover someone who can’t, the money we have budgeted for per capita can be used for local mission and operating expenses. Please label your check or envelope “per capita” so we can credit the correct account. Thank you for your support.

### **OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP OUR NEIGHBORS**

**Congregations Helping People** is located at 820 Jefferson St. NE, Salem. They offer emergency assistance and referrals to our neighbors in need. We support them with a monthly pledge, designated donations, and your Christ Jar offerings, received on the third Sunday of each month.

**BACKPACK BUDDIES** – Donate jars of peanut butter (or money toward them) to send home monthly with the 15 Cummings students who receive our weekend bags of food. The peanut butter has been a real hit with the kids!

**KEIZER COMMUNITY FOOD BANK** – Breakfast foods such as cereal and oatmeal are very appreciated by clients. Monetary donations are always accepted.

**RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE** recycles pull tabs from drink and food cans to support their families.

**SHOES FOR KIDS** – We are collecting gently-used children’s shoes for kids at Cummings who need a pair of shoes that fit their rapidly-growing feet. Clean your kids’ and grandkids’ closets, or check out garage sales, thrift stores, or clearance sales if you don’t have elementary-age children in the family! We will take the shoes to the school at a good time in 2023.

### **Looking Ahead**

Sat. Feb. 4	9am-3pm	Officers Retreat at JKPC for all deacons and elders
Sun. Feb. 5	10:30	Worship with Communion – Rev. Kelly Dickson
Sun. Feb 12	10:30	Worship – Rev. Bob Stebe

### January Birthdays

<b>4</b>	Bethany Cozort	<b>26</b>	Ashley Kramer
<b>25</b>	Nancy Morgan	<b>28</b>	Madison Curtis
<b>February Birthdays</b>			
<b>5</b>	Paul Allen	<b>26</b>	Jacob Cunningham
<b>12</b>	Kay Ramsamooj	<b>28</b>	Betty Correll
<b>18</b>	Paul Willhite		

*We worship on the traditional grounds of the Kalapuya people  
and their many tribes.*

*We are grateful to their elders, past and present,  
who have stewarded this land through the generations.*

### **John Knox Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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