

## Worship Outline

**Epiphany 4A/Communion Sunday**

February 2, 2020

Guest Preacher: Alan Meyers

## We Gather

Prelude

*Come By Here*  
African Folk Hymn arr. Saxton

Introit  
*Presence*

*We Come Into Thy*

Eisenstein

+Call to Worship (responsive)

Blessed are the poor in spirit,

**for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Blessed are those who hunger for justice,

**for they will be filled.**

Blessed are the pure in heart,

**for they will see God.**

Blessed are the peacemakers,

**for they will be nurtured and sustained.**

+Hymn 172

*Blest Are They*

*Verse 1: One Voice*

*Refrain: All*

*Verse 2: Choir*

*Refrain: All*

*Verses 3-5: All*

*Refrain: All*

Unison Prayer of Confession and Assurance

**Surprising God,**

**you have made foolish the wisdom of the world,**

teaching that the meek shall inherit the earth  
 and heaven belongs to those who suffer for the sake of justice.  
 But we cling to the values of this world,  
 things that enhance our status but cheat our souls.  
 We seek comfort in simple answers and easy outs.  
 We disregard the marginalized and mock weakness,  
 forgetting that Christ lifted up the lowly  
 and made a home among the vulnerable.  
 God of blessing,  
 reorient our hearts, and renew our minds,  
 so that we might act with justice,  
 practice kindness,  
 and - in all things-walk humbly with you.

*Silence is kept.*

The Peace

In the spirit of peace and the hope of unity,  
 let us offer each other a sign of Christ's peace!  
 The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

+Gathering Song 447

*Forgiven*

*We Are*

***We are forgiven. We are forgiven.  
 Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.  
 We are forgiven. We are forgiven.  
 Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.***

Sharing the Story

Scripture Lesson

Micah 6: 1-8

Let us pray . . .  
 God of abundant life,  
 your grace is our daily bread.  
 Nourish us by your Word  
 and fill us with your Spirit  
 so that we may grow in faith and love;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A reading from the prophet, Micah. Let us listen for God's word.

6Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. 2Hear, 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. 3“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! 4For 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. 5O 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.”

6“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? 7Will 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?” 8He 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?

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Lesson

I Corinthians 1: 18-31

A reading from Paul's letter to the church in Corinth:

18For 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. 19For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” 20Where 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? 21For 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. 22For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength. 26Consider 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. 27But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, 29so that no one might boast in the presence of God. 30He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Opening the Word with Young Disciples

Anthem  
*Lord*

*When We Meet at Your Table,*

Governor  
Chancel Choir

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5: 1-12

5When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

3“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. 8“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 10“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon  
Meyers

Rev. Dr. Alan

+Hymn 738

*O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

## Eucharist

Offering

Invitation

With what shall we come before the Lord this day?

We come with a love of justice and a passion for sharing Christ’s love.

Let us walk in humble gratitude,  
offering to God a portion of the gifts that God  
freely shares with us,  
gifts for the healing of the world.

Offertory

*Trio From the Third French Suite*  
Bach

+Congregational Response 708 (verse 1)

*We Give Thee but Thine Own*

***We give thee but thine own,  
whate'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thine alone,  
a trust, O Lord, from thee.***

+Dedication

We thank you, God, that you have blessed us  
with an abundance of gifts for the flourishing of your world.  
May this offering of our life and labor reveal your love  
as we seek to share your promised reign with all creation. Amen.

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer (unison)

**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, forever. Amen.**

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Closing Prayer

Sending

+Hymn 700

*I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

+Blessing and Benediction

+Congregational Benediction 192 refrain

*Shine, Jesus Shine*

*Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Father's glory.*

*Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.*

*Flow, river, flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy.*

*Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.*

Postlude

*Processional*  
Kuhnau

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Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1

Call to Worship: Lectionary Aids for 2019-2020, Year A

Book of Common Worship