

# *The First Congregational Church in Worcester*

Online Worship

February 7, 2021

Prelude

*Shal We Gather at the River ~ Lowry, arr. Livingston*

Ringling of the Chimes

Call to Worship

Invocation and 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 trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Responsive Reading

*Psalm 147:1-11, 20c*

Praise the LORD! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

**The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.**

He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

**He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.**

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

**The LORD lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground.**

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.

**He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills.**

He gives to the animals their food, and to the young ravens when they cry.

**His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner**

but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

**Praise the Lord!**

Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 40:21-31*

Pastoral Prayer

New Testament Reading

*I Corinthians 9:16-23*

Hymn

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

The last psalm in the Bible, Psalm 150, ends with this invitation: "Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD." German composer Joachim Neander gave us words to do just that when he wrote his most well-known hymn, "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty." Hymnologist John Julian declares this to be "a magnificent hymn of praise to God, perhaps the finest production of its author, and of the first rank in its class" (*Dictionary of Hymnology*). And indeed, this is a hymn that has stood the test of time (over 300 years) to remain one of the most beloved praise hymns in the Church. As we sing these words, we join with the voices, in many

languages, of millions who have gone before us, and those across the globe, to sing these great words of thanksgiving and honor to the God who created us, protects us, and befriends us.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!  
Come, all who hear; now to his temple draw near,  
join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, above all things so wondrously reigning;  
sheltering you under his wings, and so gently sustaining!  
Have you not seen all that is needful has been  
sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
if with his love he befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.  
Let the Amen sound from his people again;  
gladly forever adore him.

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Gospel Reading

*Mark 1:29-39*

Meditation

Benediction

Benediction Response

*Go My Children*

Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.  
In My love's baptismal river, I have made you Mine forever.  
Go, My children, with My blessing - You are My own.

Chimes

Postlude

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee ~ arr. Hustad*



Participants

Rev. Robert H. Jackson, Pastor  
Scott M. Yonker, Minister of Music