

You are welcome here! We are disciples of Jesus, growing in Faith, Hope, and Love

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Wehsite

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Facebook

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Worship Times

Sunday 10:15 am Wednesday 7:00 pm

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Pastor

Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal



February 4, 2024 5th Sunday after Epíphany

Gathering

▼ INTRODUCTION

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

★ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.
- C Amen.
- P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P God, our rock and refuge,
- C we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all.

Amen.

- P The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.
- C Amen.

★GATHERING HYMN – Healer of Our Every Ill (ELW #612)

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★ GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

▼ GLORY TO GOD – (ELW Setting Five, p.159)



* PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Let us pray. Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Word

¥ FIRST LESSON – Isaiah 40:21-31

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,

"My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"?

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;

31but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,

they shall mount up with wings like eagles,

they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

- L The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

▼ RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

²The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem,

and gathers the exiles of Israel.

³The LORD heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

⁴The LORD counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names.

⁵Great is our LORD and mighty in power; there is no limit to God's wisdom.

⁶The LORD lifts up the lowly, but casts the wicked to the ground.

⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music upon the harp to our God,

8 who covers the heavens with clouds

and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.

⁹God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they cry.

¹⁰God is not impressed by the might of a horse, and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD, in those who await God's steadfast love.

^{20c} Hallelujah!

▼ SECOND LESSON – 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

- L The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able to welcome the gospel.

★ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – (ELW #513)



★ GOSPEL – Mark 1:29-39

- P The Holy Gospel, according to Mark, the first chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you."

³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

- P The gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

¥ SERMON

★ HYMN OF THE DAY- Cast Out, O Christ (ACS #1016)

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★ APOSTLES' CREED (ELW p. 105)

- P With the whole Church, let us confess our faith:
- C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

▼ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

- A Everlasting God, you bring your healing power to the church. Give your church a spirit of unity and prayer, that we discern your way for us in the world. God of grace,
- C receive our prayer.
- A Creator of the ends of the earth, you make the grass grow and send rain for the soil. Bring your creation into harmony and balance. Give animals their food and provide healthy shelter for your people. Inspire us to honor the miraculous beauty of all you have made. God of grace,
- C receive our prayer.

A God without equal, your steadfast love endures forever. Bring the leaders, elected officials, and peacekeepers of our towns and countries into understanding and unity. Guide them to serve with compassion and understanding. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A God who strengthens, you lift up with your hand any who are suffering. Heal those who are brokenhearted and strengthen the weak and all in need, especially those we name before you now, silently or aloud. (pause) God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A God who gives power to the faint, challenge us to share the faith stories of what God has done in our lives. Open us to receive the unique ways God is at work in your people, especially those whose perspectives challenge our own. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A God who calls each star by name, we remember all who have died. Shelter all who mourn with your mercy and care, and give us hope in your promised salvation. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

- P Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.
- C Amen.

№ PEACE

- P The peace of the Lord be with you all.
- C And also with you.

★ OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, here and around the world. After the offering is gathered, the gifts are brought forward to the altar.

As this happens, please stand as you are able for the offering prayer and meal.

▼ OFFERING PRAYER

A Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C Amen.

Meal

▼ GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

₩ HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW Setting Six p. 173)



▼ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life... Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
- C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P With this bread and cup... We look with hope for his coming.
- C Come, Lord Jesus.
- P Holy God, we long for your Spirit.... Bring the gift of peace on earth.
- C Come, Holy Spirit.
- P All praise and glory are yours... one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

▼ LORD'S PRAYER

- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
- C 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 who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

★ INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

*** DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

▼ COMMUNION HYMN – There Is a Balm in Gilead (ELW #614)

African American Spiritual

▼ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.
- C Amen.

▼ NUNC DIMITTIS – O Lord, Now Let Your Servant (ELW #313) vs. 1

Oh Lord, now let your servant depart in heavenly peace, For I have seen the glory of your redeeming grace; A light to lead the nations unto your holy hill, The glory of your people, the chosen Israel.

₩ BLESSING

- P God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, + bless you and remain with you always.
- C Amen.

*** ANNOUNCEMENTS**

▼ SENDING HYMN – I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me (ELW #860)

African American Spiritual
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₩ DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace. You are God's beloved.
- C Thanks be to God.

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Grand Prairie Food and Clothing Co-op

The list of needed items for our Lenten Season Food Drive include:

- Canned peas
- Canned vegetables
- Canned tuna

Please leave donations in the big tub in the narthex.

Grand Prairie Homeless Outreach

Here is a link to Amazon to shop for different packages of Mylar Blankets Amazon.com: mylar blankets

The delivery address for GPHOO is their Chamber of Commerce address: GPHOO

c/o Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce 900 Conover St. Grand Prairie, TX 75051

★ SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal

Music Director: John Zacharias Altar: Leah Adix

Assisting Minister: Renee Swanjord

Lay Reader:
Usher:
Adix Family
Videographer:
Communion Cup Holder:
Meleah Zapata

Children in attendance are welcome to break away during our services with our Sunday School teachers. Those teachers include Cheri Oertel (director), Julie Bothun, Katie Valencia and Phyllis Bell.

If anyone would be interested in volunteering once a month to teach Sunday School during the service, please contact the church office or talk to Cheri Oertel.

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