

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JAN. 30, 2022



"Why Pastors
Love Their
People"

Rev. Howard Reed
Exodus 32:1-11& Phil. 1:4-2:4

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 30, 2022

Park Hill Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

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inspired by Rev. Teri Peterson and written for Bible Worm

PRELUDE

Br. Andee Book, organ

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Introduction of Rev. Howard Reed
2. Annabel on vacation; welcome Br. Andee Book to the benches
3. Session Meeting Wednesday at 6:30pm on Zoom
- 4.

CALL TO WORSHIP

For God alone my soul waits in silence. **Steadfast love belongs to the Lord.**
Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ,
Steadfast love belongs to the Lord.
Stand firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the
gospel, **Steadfast love belongs to the Lord.** Let us praise the Lord.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

"They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love" vs 1, 2 #300
Performed by Andee Book and Sandee Pinkstaff

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all dignity will one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;
we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

CALL TO CONFESSION AND CONFESSION

The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were still sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare approach God with confidence, confessing our sins together, saying "Merciful God, **Forgive us.**"

Lord of justice and mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. Merciful God, **Forgive us.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Merciful God, **Forgive us.**

In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways. Merciful God, **Forgive us.** Hear us in our silent prayers.

MEDITATION ON FORGIVENESS

"Eagles Wings"

piano

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

READING

Exodus 32:1-14 (NRSV)

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." ² Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." ³ So all the

people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. ⁴He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold,^[a] and cast an image of a calf; and they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” ⁵When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD.” ⁶They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

⁷The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’” ⁹The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

¹¹But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” ¹⁴And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Philippians 1:4-2:4

⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart,^[a] for all of you share in God’s grace^[a] with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. ¹²I want you to know, beloved,^[b] that what has happened to me has actually helped to spread the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard^[a] and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ; ¹⁴and most of the brothers and sisters,^[a] having been made confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, dare to speak the word^[a] with greater boldness and without fear.

¹⁵Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. ¹⁶These proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defense of the gospel; ¹⁷the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment. ¹⁸What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or true; and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance. ²⁰It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. ²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God’s doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— ³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have. If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

SERMON	“Why Pastors Love Their People”	Rev. Howard Reed
ANTHEM	“Variations on Jesus Calls Us”	organ
APOSTLE’S CREED		video

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For the church, for the world, and all in need, let us pray to the Lord saying: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For your church in every place, that we may worship and serve you faithfully... *(brief silence)* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For leaders and people in every land, that they may know your way and do your will... *(brief silence)* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For justice throughout the world, that there may be peace and plenty for all... *(brief silence)* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the earth you have made, that it may flourish in beauty and show your glory... *(brief silence)* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all those who hunger and thirst, that they may be filled with good things... *(brief silence)* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who are ill or in pain, or close to death, that they may know your loving care... *(brief silence)* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who care for others with the work of their hands, and with their love and prayers, that they may be renewed with your strength to show your compassion in the world... *(brief silence)* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive all these prayers, O God, in the tenderness of your mighty hand, and strengthen our hands to serve you. Help us to pray as often as we breathe, and to use the words Christ taught us, saying...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, they 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.

GIVING OF OUR OFFERINGS AND TITHES

Today we offer ourselves and our gifts to God while at home and seemingly separated, and yet we are united in gratitude for God’s faithfulness to us, that nothing need stop us in our freedom from worshipping you and declaring our faith. Today we can give by mailing an offering to the church address or by giving online through our webpage. Your gifts maintain our ministries, many of which continue whether we worship in this space or elsewhere.

And during this time of anxiety and illness, if you find yourself in need—physical, mental, spiritual or financial—please tell our elder for Congregational Care, Mary Henry, or Rev. Howard Reed.

*DOXOLOGY “Doxology” Video
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Christ all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit ever more, praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.**

*PRAYER

*PASSING OF THE PEACE
Please “pass the peace” in a phone call, letter, or text, saying to someone else,
“May the Peace of Christ be with you.” **“And also with you.”**

*HYMN OF SENDING “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling,” vs. 1-3 #366
Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest. Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy
hosts above, pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION
“The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD’s face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.”

*POSTLUDE