

A hand wearing a black and white striped sock holds a magnifying glass. The lens of the magnifying glass is focused on a small globe of the Earth. The background is a soft, out-of-focus bokeh of warm, golden and blue lights, suggesting a sunset or a starry night sky. The text "EVERYONE IS SEARCHING FOR YOU" is centered within the magnifying glass lens.

*EVERYONE  
IS SEARCHING  
FOR YOU*

# FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY | February 4, 2024

## GATHERING

**PRAYER FOR MEDITATION:** *Powerful God, from the very beginning you blessed creation. You have loved and shielded your people through all joys and trials of life. We come to you this day, rejoicing in the many blessings you have given to us. We open our hearts again to hear your word for us and to gather strength and joy for service in your world. Be with us and bless us again, we pray. Amen.*

## RINGING OF THE CHIMES

### OPENING SENTENCES (1 Corinthians 9:23)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: Do all things for the sake of the gospel.  
ALL: *So may we share in the blessings of God.*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Courtney Bowen

### PRELUDE

*Prelude and Fugue in C Major*  
Dr. Terry McRoberts

Fischer

### CHORAL INTROIT

*We Have Come to Worship the Lord*  
Chancel Choir

Yannerella

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: Come, rejoice and sing! God's love is showered over you this day.  
ALL: *We gather to praise God and celebrate God's presence with us.*  
One: God shows compassion to all who are weak and downtrodden.  
ALL: *Jesus Christ offers healing mercies to our troubled souls.*  
One: Praise be to God who has called us here.  
ALL: *Thanks be to God for God's eternal love. Amen.*

### \*HYMN OF PRAISE: 610 *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

AZMON

## PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. John White

God our Creator knows us each by name and knows our hearts. Let us confess our sins before our God, who desires to save us and set us free.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. John White

*Gracious God, it's tempting to give up and give in, to hide from the injustices of the world, to protect ourselves and our own, to turn off the evening news full of bad news. Forgive our sins of escape, of ignoring, of turning our backs on those in need. (continued)*

*Forgive our sins of apathy when you call us to action. Renew us, Holy God, by your grace. Strengthen us to follow Christ's call. Amen.*

## SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS** (*based on Psalm 103:7*) *Rev. John White*

One: The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

**ALL:** *Thanks be to God. Amen.*

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: 581** *Glory Be to the Father* GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. A-men, a-men.*

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE** *Rev. John White*

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

**ALL:** *And also with you.*

## THE WORD

**ANTHEM** *The Meditations of My Heart* Halberg  
Chancel Choir

**TIME WITH THE CHILDREN** *Lindsey Patterson*

**MINUTE FOR MISSION: LONG-RANGE PLANNING** *Elder Steve Bowers*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER** *Rev. John White*

**\*HYMN: 834** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* PRECIOUS LORD

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** *Rev. John White*

**FIRST READING** *Isaiah 40:21-31* (pg. 668) *Rev. John White*

One: This is the word of God for the people of God.

**ALL:** *Thanks be to God.*

**SECOND READING** *Mark 1:29-39* (pg. 35) *Rev. Courtney Bowen*

One: This is the word of God for the people of God. The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord endures forever.

**ALL:** *Thanks be to God.*

**SERMON** *Everyone is Searching for You* *Rev. Courtney Bowen*

*\*Congregation standing, if able*

## RESPONSE

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*from The Confession of 1967*)

*Rev. John White*

*The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.... The new life finds its direction in the life of Jesus, his deeds and words, his struggles against temptation, his compassion, his anger, and his willingness to suffer death. The teaching of apostles and prophets guides men and women in living this life, and the Christian community nurtures and equips them for their ministries... Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.*

*(At this time, please find the red friendship pad located toward the center isle on each pew, sign it, pass it down your row and back again, taking note of those who worship with you.)*

**OFFERING**

*Rev. John White*

**OFFERTORY**

*It Is Well with My Soul*

*Limbaugh*

*Dr. Terry McRoberts*

\*Doxology (Tune: 606)

**OLD HUNDREDTH**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\*Dedicatory Prayer

*Rev. John White*

## SENDING

**\*HYMN: 792** *There is a Balm in Gilead*

**BALM IN GILEAD**

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

**CHORAL BENEDICTION**

*Alleluia!*

*Patterson*

*Chancel Choir*

*(We request that you remain seated until after the Postlude and ask that you use the Postlude as a time to reflect upon the scripture that was read in today's service.)*

**POSTLUDE**

*Chaconne in Ancient Style*

*Powell*

*Dr. Terry McRoberts*