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Sunday, January 17, 2021 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

In Home Worship

If you are unable to join us at 11:00 for our Zoom service or choose not to watch that service later on YouTube, we invite you to find some time today to worship God, whether on your own or with others in your home. An order of service is provided below. You are invited to speak the words aloud. This is written for multiple people, but if you are worshipping on your own, feel free to substitute “we” and “us” with “me” and “I.”

Though we are in different locations this morning, let us, even so, worship God together!

Call to Worship (Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18)

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

²You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

³You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.

⁵You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it...

¹³For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;

that I know very well.

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you,

when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.

¹⁷ How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ I try to count them—they are more than the sand;

I come to the end—I am still with you.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, trusting in God's constant presence with us, let us worship the Holy One who knows us completely!

Call to Confession

God searches us and knows our hearts, even before a word is on our tongue. When we name our confessions before God, we are simply saying aloud what God already knows. Trusting in the mercy of our Savior, let us pray...

Prayer of Confession (read by one person or in unison)

God, you know us better than we know ourselves. You know our thoughts, our weaknesses, our motivations, our sins. And you love us still. Forgive us when we don't believe such love is true or possible; when we wonder how you could love us just as we are, when we forget that we are fearfully and wonderfully made in your image. Remove from our minds every thought which keeps us from you. Break down the walls we build to separate ourselves from you and one another. Push aside the pride, the arrogance and the self-righteousness that keeps us from softening our hearts towards others. And help us, merciful God, to listen for your voice and to trust you once more. (*You may offer here your own personal confessions...*) O God, you know us; you know our hearts. And we are in awe that you love us still. Hear our repentant hearts and make of us a new people. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

There is no place we can go, no end of the earth to which we can run, where God cannot find us and call us back. And there is nothing on earth or beyond death that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. We are forgiven. We are loved. We are reconciled to God. Let us hear this good news and be at peace.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (*You are encouraged to call, text, or email someone with words of peace, hope and joy!*)

Scripture—1 Samuel 3:1-20 (NRSV)

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

² At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³ the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴ Then the LORD called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” ⁵ and ran to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. ⁶ The LORD called again, “Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” ⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸ The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰ Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” ¹¹ Then the LORD said to Samuel, “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹² On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³ For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴ Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.”

¹⁵ Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶ But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.” ¹⁷ Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” ¹⁸ So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.”

¹⁹ As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD. **AMEN.**

Scripture – John 1:43-51 (NRSV)

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” ⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” ⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” ⁵⁰ Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” ⁵¹ And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

*This is the Word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!***

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer (*You may pray the following or use it as a guide to write or pray your own prayer for the world and for specific needs and joys of which you are aware*)

Eternal God, we praise your name this day, astounded that you, the Creator of all that is, desire for us to know you, astounded that you call us by name and know us better than we know ourselves. Give us ears to hear you, O God. Reveal to us your presence among us that we might respond with such joy and faith as we seek to follow you all our days.

God of grace, you teach us to pray—for the world, for your church, for others and for ourselves, so hear the prayers of our hearts this day. We pray for the leaders of nations. Especially this week, we pray for a peaceful transition from one administration to the other. We ask that you be with our current President and his family as they shift back toward a more private life and that you be with our incoming President as he and his wife make their home in the White House, as he sets about the task of leading this nation in these divided and difficult times. We pray that wisdom and integrity, honesty and justice will prevail for the good of all people, O God. Where we are at odds with one another, draw us close to you and remind us that we are all one in your Spirit. Heal us and save us, we pray, as we seek a way forward that lifts up those who are low, that fills those who are hungry, that tends to the lost and the lonely and the heartbroken, the oppressed and the victimized, as you would have us do.

On this weekend when we remember the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we give you thanks for his voice that still speaks among us, echoing down through the years. We give

thanks for his witness and his service, and pray for his dream that all people, regardless of skin color, will be able gather together as true sisters and brothers, that this nation will live fully into its ideals, we pray for that dream to come true, for it is no less urgent today than it was then. Make us bold to heed the cries that are before us, make us tender to listen to one another—our fears and our hopes, set us free from the sins of racism and white supremacy and privilege, from the places where we are complicit or silent, so that we may be a more complete people, who indeed gather around the same table, your table, O Lord.

We pray, O God, for all those in need—in need of food or shelter, of employment or safer environments. Call us as your church to service, to sharing, to listening, to caring for those near and far. As you give us our daily bread, so help us share with those who have less than we do so that all might have enough. We lift up those who are sick, those who are in pain, those who are struggling in body, mind or spirit. Speak to them, O God, that they may know you are near and be empowered by your holy presence.

Hear our prayers especially now for those we name aloud...*(add your own personal prayers here or you may use those whose were sent out via the prayer band this week)*

With thanksgiving, O God, we remember all those who have served to shape us in your ways, who have taught us your truth, who have shown us the path of life. Receive our prayers this day and grant whatever you see your people need. Hear us as we pray now in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, the King of Israel, the Lord of our lives, who taught us to pray together, saying...*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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

Invitation to the Offering

You are invited to pause and reflect on all the goodness God has bestowed upon you and your family and to respond by visiting our website (www.trinitypresonline.com) and giving online, or by filling out your check for you weekly offering. If you are writing a check, please mail that to the church at some point this week. (1000 Greenlawn Dr., Columbia, SC 29209)

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

Gracious God, Giver of every good gift, we thank you for calling us to be your people and to do your work, to live in and for the good of your world. Receive the gifts we offer you, the gifts of our time, our talents and our resources, and bless them for your purposes in the world. We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Charge and Blessing

May we seek to know the Lord as we are known and when God calls us into the world, let us go as trustworthy servants, true in word and in deed. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each one of us, those whom we love, and all God's children everywhere. **Amen.**