

Order of Worship for Sunday, January 17, 2020

Second Sunday after Epiphany - *Not available on prerecorded services

Listen at 814-422-6238. Watch online at www.PennsValleyParish.info

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: L: God, you call each of us to serve you, and we answer,

P: **“Here I am!”**

L: Jesus, you call each of us to follow you, and we answer,

P: **“Here I am!”**

L: Holy Spirit, you call each of us to worship you this day,

and we answer,

P: **“Here I am!”**

RELIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

L: We light this candle as a symbol of the joy to be found in your kingdom on earth. (*Relight the pink candle.*)

P: For the Lord elevates the lowly, releases the captive, and brings sight to the blind. We rejoin in his justice and mercy, faithful to all generations.

ALL: Come, again, Lord Jesus, come!

OPENING PRAYER

Awesome God, you have made all of creation and each cell of our bodies. You know our thoughts and you know our sins. We desperately try to hide our mistakes, our weaknesses, our embarrassments. But you know it all, and so we come before you now asking for your forgiveness. Even as you know the limits of our human capabilities, we know the unlimited power of your love. Forgive us, cleanse us, make us whole. AMEN.

* HYMN I Come with Joy UMH 617 (v. 1-4)

BLESSING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS – DOXOLOGY

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE God Calls Samuel: Answering God’s Call

JOYS AND CONCERNS - PASTORAL PRAYER

(The Lord’s Prayer “trespass”)

SELECTED SCRIPTURE 1 Samuel 3:1-10, John 1:43-51, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

MESSAGE Creating Christian Freedom

* HYMN I Come with Joy UMH 617 (v. 5)

COMMISSION & BLESSING

PASTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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BIBLE STUDY: Anything Good

Read John 1:43-51

In this passage, Nathanael had to reassess an assumption (that the Messiah would come from a town of importance. Nazareth was tiny and unimportant). What would Nathanael miss if he held on to his assumptions? [Jesus!] Name a time in your life when you had to reassess an assumption.

Read the Communion liturgy from The United Methodist Hymnal or online. (Focus on the invitation and the confession and pardon.) How might these reminders help us to examine where we have done harm or failed to do good?

Discuss: While it is natural to think that those who are like us do good, it is much harder to consider that those who are different from us are good or are capable of doing good. This passage and the Communion liturgy invite us to self-examination. We are confronted with the question, “Can anything good come from us?”

How does God’s grace give us assurance beyond right or wrong opinions? [No matter how limited our experiences or how incorrect our opinions, we beloved children of God.]

Why are difficult conversations so anxiety producing? [We fear emotional outbursts, loss of relationships, and doing harm.]

While some might see difficult conversations as futile (“I know what I believe. You know what you believe. We’re not going to convince each other, so what’s the point?”), what good might result from having these conversations? [We grow in our perspectives of what others believe. We deepen the reasons for our beliefs. We might persuade others to amend their perspectives, and they might persuade us to amend our perspectives. Ultimately, we might grow closer to God as we see more and see God in others.]

CLOSING PRAYER

Gracious God, we confess our imperfections and times when we have failed to live and act as one of the baptized. May we see ourselves defined by your grace and not by our faults. Help us to see how you are transforming us into your image and that we might see how you are at work in others, even those who count us as enemies. Amen.