

SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS

January 24, 2021

Resting in Christ

4:00 pm

*All who are able may stand.

Bold type spoken by the congregation.

The Prelude

The Welcome

The Opening Sentences

(from 2 Corinthians 1:4-5)

God consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction.

**For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us,
so also our consolation is abundant through Christ.**

The Gathering Hymn 785

In Deepest Night

*In deepest night, in darkest days, when harps are hung, no songs we raise,
when silence must suffice as praise, yet sounding in us quietly there is the song of God.*

*When friend was lost, when love deceived, dear Jesus wept, God was bereaved;
so with us in our grief God grieves, and round about us mournfully there are the tears of God.*

*When through the waters winds our path, around us pain, around us death,
deep calls to deep, a saving breath, and found beside us faithfully there is the love of God.*

The Call to Confession

*The Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment ... (time for silent confession) ... Set us free from a past we cannot change; open us to a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in Your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

*The Assurance of Pardon

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Guide us, O God, by Your Word and Spirit, that in Your light we may see light, in Your truth find freedom, and in Your will discover Your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson: *Isaiah 65:17-25*

The Psalter Lesson: *Psalms 22*

The Gospel Lesson: *Matthew 11:28-30*

The Anthem

We Cannot Measure How You Heal

We cannot measure how you heal or answer every sufferer's prayer, yet we believe your grace responds where faith and doubt unite to care. Your hands though bloodied on the cross, survive to hold and heal and warn, to carry all through death to life and cradle children yet unborn.

The pain that will not go away, the guilt that clings from things long past, the fear of what the future holds, are present as if meant to last. But present too is love which tends the hurt we never hoped to find, the private agonies inside, the memories that haunt the mind.

So some have come who need your help and some have come to make amends, as hands which shaped and saved the world are present in the touch of friends. Lord, let your spirit meet us here to mend the body, mind, and soul, to disentangle peace from pain, and make your broken people whole.

The Meditation

The Power of Lament
Brittany Tamminga

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIVES TO GOD

The Intercession for Healing

God the father, You breathe life into Your whole Creation.

Help us breath deeply of Your peace and presence.

God the Son, You give us Yourself to make our joy complete

Help us give our fear, pain, and grief to You.

God the Holy Spirit, You move through our lives in unexpected ways.

Help us move in concert with Your life-giving motion...

...Lord in Your mercy,

hear our prayer...

The Hymn 793

O Christ, the Healer

O Christ the healer, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.

How can we fail to be restored when reached by love that never ends?

*From every ailment flesh endures our bodies clamor to be freed;
yet in our hearts we would confess that wholeness is our deepest need.*

How strong, O Lord, are our desires, how weak our knowledge of ourselves!

Release in us those healing truths unconscious pride resists or shelves.

*In conflicts that destroy our health we recognize the world's disease;
our common life declares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?*

*Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your community may find the wholeness that,
enriching us, shall reach the whole of humankind.*

*The Blessing

*The Postlude