

# Third Sunday after Epiphany

## January 23, 2022

### Gathering

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PRELUDE

Lori Yost, Musician

WELCOME & LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

Dave Sippel, Minister of Congregational Engagement

### Expansion of Our Hearts

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CALL TO WORSHIP *(Responsive)*

We gather today to worship the One who created us,

**The One who calls us,**

The One who equips us,

**The One who loves us without end.**

With joyful hearts, let us worship God.

\*GATHERING SONG **#36** *(blue)* "He Is Exalted"

Emma Patrimonio and Brook Brooke Burgin, Vocals

\*PASSING THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE *(Unison)*

**Most merciful God, 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. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

PREPARATION FOR READING

Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scriptures.

**Our hearts and minds are open.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 (NRSV)

*All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.*

*And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.*

*So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.*

*And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."*

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Wayfaring Stranger" by Emmylou Harris

Vocalists/Guitarists: Sue DeBell, Lew Shafer, Martin Williams

### Reception of God's Word

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GOSPEL LESSON Luke 4:14-21, 28-30 (NRSV)

*Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.*

*When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:*

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

*And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."*

*When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.*

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God**

MESSAGE "From Nehemiah to Nazareth"

Rev. Robert Chase

### Transformation of Our Lives

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PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION FOR CONNECTION & CONTRIBUTION

## Compassion for the World

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\*SENDING SONG #572 (*blue*) “**Blessed Assurance**” v. 1, 3

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*\* Indicates to please, stand, if able.*