



**Sunday, January 12, 2025**  
**First Sunday after Epiphany**

## **ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE**

*During the Prelude, you are invited to meditate on the Psalm of the Day as you prepare your heart and mind for worship.*

### **Prelude**

Prelude in G Major BWV 550  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Ruth Pfister, Organ

### **Psalm of the Day**

Psalm 9:7-10

The Lord reigns forever;  
he has established his throne for judgment.  
He rules the world in righteousness  
and judges the peoples with equity.  
The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed,  
a stronghold in times of trouble.  
Those who know your name trust in you,  
for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.

### **Welcome and Gathering Prayer**

Rev. Mark van Stee

### **\*Call to Worship**

Dorothy Kwan

Leader: Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes,  
he comes to judge the earth.

**People: He will judge the world in righteousness  
and the peoples in his faithfulness.**

### **\*Hymn of Praise #263 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"**

### **Prayer of Confession**

Leader: God of salvation,  
in Christ you have done great things—  
our hearts are filled with joy.  
By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin  
and brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom.  
Salvation is your gift to us.  
But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts.  
We try to complete what is already perfect;  
we try to add to what is already full;  
we try to earn what we already have.

**People: Forgive us for our foolishness.**

**Help us to focus on your grace.**

**Help us to live grateful lives in return.**

**For Jesus' sake alone, Amen.**

### **\*Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: For the LORD is our judge,  
the LORD is our lawgiver,  
the LORD is our king;

**People: it is he who will save us.** (Isaiah 33:22)

### **God's Will for Our Lives**

Leader: Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?  
(James 4:11-12)

**\*Gloria Patri #579** “Glory Be to the Father”

## **MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

### **Old Testament Reading**

1 Samuel 2:1-11 (p. 272)

Dorothy Kwan

### **Meditation**

Choral Prelude on “Allein Gott in der Höh' sei Ehr” TWV 31 no 4  
Georg Philipp Telemann (1681-1767)

### **New Testament Reading**

John 5:24-27 (p. 1069)

### **Sermon**

“A Revealing Prayer”

Rev. Mark van Stee

### **Prayer**

**People: Almighty God,  
you make us glad with the yearly remembrance  
of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer,  
so we may with sure confidence behold him  
when he shall come to be our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.**

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\*Hymn of Response #148 "At the Name of Jesus"

**Prayer of Dedication of Tithes and Offerings**

Maio Chen, Elder for Personnel,  
Property & Planning

**Offertory**

Prelude in D Major

Johann Kaspar Ferdinand Fischer (1656-1746)

\*Doxology #592 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

**Testimony**

Rose Johnson

**Prayers of the People**

Maio Chen

**The Lord's Prayer** (*in unison in English or the language of your choice*)

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## GOING WITH GOD'S MISSION AND BLESSING

**Welcoming of Guests**

Maio Chen

**Announcements**

\*Hymn of Dedication (Insert) "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"

\*Sending and Pastoral Benediction

Rev. Mark van Stee

**Postlude**

Fugue in G Major

Nikolaus Bruhns (1665-1697)

*Please remain quietly seated during the postlude. If you need to leave, please do so quietly.*

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***\*Please stand if you are able.***

*Today's bulletin cover art is artist Wilhelm Wachtel's Hannah at Prayer. Wachtel (1875-1942) was a Jewish-Polish realist painter and illustrator who was born in Lviv, Ukraine.*