

Astoria First United Methodist Church
January 31, 2021

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS **Mary Frances**

CENTERING MUSIC *“What a Mighty God We Serve”* **Mary Frances**

WORDS OF WELCOME **Pastor Michael**

CALL TO WORSHIP **Jane Hill**

O God, source of all beauty and goodness, your grace comes fresh every morning. In each new day you give us light. We praise you for your never-failing love that satisfies our needs and shows us the way to follow. We rejoice in your constant care, for you are faithful in love for all people, offering the world salvation through Jesus Christ. Let us give thanks to the Lord with all of our heart! Let us worship our God, whose presence and power endures forever!

OPENING PRAYER **Pastor Michael**

SCRIPTURE READING *“1 Corinthians 8:1-13”* **Jane Hill**

Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Together We Serve”

Mary Frances Gunn

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor Michael

UNISON PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

Jane Hill

You, God, are known for your wonderful deeds— your mercy, forgiveness, and love. You have shown us the power of your works time and time again. And yet, we are slow to comprehend; we refuse to acknowledge your gifts; we act self-sufficient, as if we provide ourselves everything we need, when we know in our hearts that you are the author of life. Forgive us, we pray. As we confess our sins, in thought, word or deed, may your redemptive presence flood our lives that we may praise your name forevermore. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Jane Hill

God offers redemption to people of every generation, making new life possible for everyone. Come, let us return to you, O Lord, grant us the faith to believe in you, and the grace and courage to receive your healing touch. In the Name of Christ our Lord, you are forgiven!

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Mary Frances Gunn

“I Sing the Almighty Power of God”

UMH#152

GOSPEL LESSON

“Mark 1:21-28”

Pastor Michael

SERMON

“Got To Tell Somebody”

Pastor Michael

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Mary Frances

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Michael

LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor Michael

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN.

BENEDICTION:

Pastor Michael

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We welcome to our friends from the Warrenton UMC
as they join us for worship.**

**As a follow-up to our recent Four Week Advent Study,
We are beginning another study in the new year.
Topic: Extraordinary Men and Women in the Bible
Our next study will be Tuesday, February 2, 2021.
Time: 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. by Zoom**

**All of January we will be doing our Stewardship / Pledge Drive.
Please send your pledge cards into the church office As Soon As Possible.**

**We still need volunteers for liturgist each week.
Please call Sue Hicks or Mary Frances Gunn if you wish to help.**

If you want to provide special music – let Mary Frances know.

[We now have recordings of the worship services available as a link.](#)
