

Astoria First United Methodist Church
February 7, 2021

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Frances

CENTERING MUSIC

Mary Frances

WORDS OF WELCOME

Pastor Michael

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lorel Bresko

God comes into a world filled with uncertainties and darkness. God seeks out the voids of belief and conviction. God embraces the wounded and broken. God knocks down the walls of division and strife. God is the candle shining in the darkness of our days. God is the light of our lives. God is the one who makes all things new. Praise be to God, now and forevermore!

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Michael

SCRIPTURE READING

“Isaiah 40:21-31”

Lorel Bresko

Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God”? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. 30 Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

SPECIAL MUSIC*“My Life Goes On”***Jane Hill****CALL TO RECONCILIATION****Pastor Michael****UNISON PRAYER FOR CONFESSION****Lorel Bresko**

How amazing it is to us, O God of love, that you look into our hearts and forgive our wayward spirits. So many times we have succumbed to the temptations of this world, seeking comfort in its fleeting enticements. We have turned deaf ears on the cries of those in distress and walked away from opportunities to give aid and comfort. Remind us again of how Jesus reached out to the multitudes who brought their problems and ailments to him. His compassionate touch not only healed their bodies but restored and renewed their spirits. Forgive our stubbornness and our selfishness. Give us hearts of compassion and spirits willing to serve you by serving others. We offer this prayer of contrition in Jesus' name. AMEN.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**WORDS OF ASSURANCE****Lorel Bresko**

Hear the good news! In this very instant, God has touched our hearts and offered God's healing and forgiving love. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Hallelujah!! AMEN

HYMN OF PREPARATION*“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”***Mary Frances Gunn****UMH#382****GOSPEL LESSON***“Mark 1:29-39”***Pastor Michael****SERMON***“The Grip of God's Call”***Pastor Michael****JOYS AND CONCERNS****Mary Frances****PASTORAL PRAYER****Pastor Michael****LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION

(Please remember to bring the communion elements of the bread and juice with you today)

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 9, 2021.

Time: 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. by Zoom

**Our Stewardship / Pledge Drive was in January and it's not too late to
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.
