

3rd Sunday After Epiphany
January 24, 2021



"In God Alone"

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Let us seek to simplify this moment, slow down for a time. Let us worship, leaning on prayer, reflection, and music. Let us worship God, who is holding our lives.

Threshold Moment
"God is Holding Your Life"

Turn now your gaze upon the earth
Where is the One who never sleeps?
We call the One who guards you now,
Your spirit safe in holy keep

**God is holding your life
God is holding your life
God is holding your life, we believe**
[repeat refrain]

Opening Collect Prayer

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Pastor: God of our devotion, you are the one constant in life.
Open us this day to see the things that hold us in their grip
so that we might shed unnecessary distractions
that keep us from seeing your reign on earth as it is in heaven.

***People:* We praise you for being our rock,
holding our lives together in the ways that matter most.
Amen.**

Hymn GTG 353 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” verses 1-4

1 My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness; I
dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand; all
other ground is sinking sand.

2 When darkness seems to hide his face, I rest on his unchanging grace; in
every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand; all
other ground is sinking sand.

3 His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood; when
all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand; all
other ground is sinking sand.

4 When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found,
dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand; all
other ground is sinking sand.

Psalm Reading

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Psalm Reading
Psalm 62:5-12
Lukan Psalter translation

In God alone my soul finds rest,
for my deliverance comes from God,
who alone is my rock, my salvation,
my fortress:
I will never be shaken.

Only in God—my deliverance, my glory—
my refuge is God.
Trust in God always, my people;
pour out your hearts before God our refuge.

Humankind is but a breath,
mortals are just an illusion.
Put them on the scales and the balance
is thrown off:
they weigh less than a breath.

Do not trust in extortion,
or put false hopes in stolen goods;
do not set your heart on riches
even when they increase.

For God has said only one thing,
Twice have I heard it:
that power belongs to God:
Steadfast love is yours, ADONAI –
you repay all people according
to their deeds.

Psalm Song

**Introduction from Richard Bruxvoort Colligan
and
Song: “In God Alone”**

Reflection

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Instrumental Music

Offering

Diane Adams, Liturgist

“Selah” Moment

Diane Adams, Liturgist

We come to our moment of “Selah”—that mysterious word found in the Psalms that invites us to pause. We will use an instrumental sound to remind us to take a pause, a breath. Settle your heart and know that you are held in the hands of the Divine. We will hear the sound of the bell and then have some silence. During this time of silence feel free to close your eyes if you like. Imagine yourself held in safety and love and care. When you hear the sound of the bell again, open your eyes.

Time of Silence

Prayers of the People

Diane Adams, Liturgist

Each week we will have a moment to write prayer concerns on small pieces of paper. We will then place these prayers in a container [*bowl, box, etc*]—a symbolic action of placing them in God’s hands, God’s care. At this time you will have a moment to write your prayer concerns on small pieces of paper and place them in the container before you.

Time for Writing Prayer Concerns

Liturgist: Let the people say, “Selah”

People: Selah!

Liturgist: Let us continue our prayers. As a prayer posture for this worship series, I invite you to cup your hands, ready to receive God’s love and peace, and in preparation to be God’s love and peace in the world.

Let us pray for the leaders of this world and this church community...

God of Justice, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who live in conflict around the world...

Prince of Peace, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all who are experiencing loss of any kind in this pandemic...

Comforting Healer, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who are homeless, hungry and alone...

Emmanuel, God-With-Us, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who live in comfort,

for Christ-like hospitality and generosity...

Transforming Spirit, hear our prayer.

Holy and Living One,
for those we have named and the ones whose names we do not know,

hear our prayer.

Now we are bold to pray the prayer Jesus taught his disciples to pray:

The Lord's Prayer (Unison)

Diane Adams, Liturgist

[People sing]

Sung Prayer Response

"Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands"

**Put peace into each other's hands and like a treasure hold it,
protect it like a candle flame, with tenderness enfold it.**

**Put peace into each other's hands with loving expectation;
be gentle in your words and ways,
in touch with God's creation.**

Passing the Peace

Diane Adams, Liturgist

Will you make a gesture of extending your cupped hands toward others who may be with or near you as a sign of offering the peace that Christ gives us? If you are alone, place your cupped hands over your heart, as a sign that you send your heartfelt peace out to the world.

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

[People sing]

**Give thanks for strong yet tender hands
held out in trust and blessing.
Where words fall short let hands speak out;
the heights of love expressing.**

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Now go in the knowledge that God is holding your life
even as we hold each other.

You are not alone.

You are loved. Amen.

Postlude

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