

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
February 7, 2021



**“We Wait, We Hope, We Stay”**

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

Helyn Schroeder, Liturgist

Let us seek to simplify this moment, slow down for a time. Let us worship, leaning on prayer, reflection, and music.

**Threshold**

**“God is Holding Your Life”**

**Venturing out or coming home,  
'neath heat of day or cool of night,  
we call the one who hears your voice  
and comes to heal and keep your life.**

**God is holding your life  
God is holding your life  
God is holding your life, we believe**

[repeat refrain]

**Opening Collect Prayer**

Helyn Schroeder, Liturgist

*Leader:* Healing God,  
You are working to bind up the wounds of the world.  
Open us this day to be your hands and feet for a suffering people,  
so that we might make a difference right where we are,  
contributing to your reign on earth as it is in heaven.

***People:* We praise you for the strength to persevere,  
holding our lives together in love.**

**Amen.**

**Hymn #761**

**“Called As Partners in Christ’s Service”**

- 1 Called as partners in Christ’s service, called to ministries of grace,  
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,  
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God’s chosen end.
- 2 Christ’s example, Christ’s inspiring, Christ’s clear call to work and  
worth, let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth. Men  
and women, richer, poorer, all God’s people, young and old,  
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.
- 3 Thus new patterns for Christ’s mission, in a small or global sense,  
help us bear each other’s burdens, breaking down each wall or  
fence. Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said  
with care, bring new power and strength for action, make us  
colleagues, free and fair.
- 4 So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life that  
surround each person’s sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.  
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,  
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

**Psalm Reading**

Helyn Schroeder, Liturgist

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
*Lukan Psalter translation*

*Alleluia! How good it is to praise our God!  
How pleasant and how fitting to sing God’s praise!*

*ADONAI rebuilds Jerusalem,  
and gathers Israel’s exiles.  
God heals the brokenhearted,  
and binds up their wounds.*

*God knows the number of the stars  
and calls each one by name.  
Great is ADONAI, and mighty in power;  
there is no limit to God's wisdom.  
ADONAI lifts up the oppressed,  
and casts the corrupt to the ground.*

*Sing to our God with thanksgiving;  
sing praise with the harp to our God—  
who covers the heavens with clouds,  
who provides rain for the earth,  
who makes grass sprout on the mountains  
and herbs for the service of the people,  
who gives food to the cattle,  
and to the young ravens when they cry.*

*God does not thrill  
to the strength of the horse,  
or revel in the fleetness of humans.  
ADONAI delights in those  
who worship with reverence  
and put their hope in divine love.*

*Alleluia!*

## **Psalm Song**

**Introduction from Richard Bruxvoort Colligan  
and  
Song: "We Wait, We Hope, We Stay"**

**Reflection**

Debra Davies

**Instrumental Music**

**"Selah" Moment**

Helyn Schroeder, Liturgist

Let us rest for a moment and let a healing pause settle inside us. We will hear [the sound] and then have some silence. Feel free to close your eyes if you like. Imagine yourself held in safety and love and care. When you hear [the sound] again, open your eyes.

*Time of Silence*

## Prayers of the People

Debra Davies

You are invited to write your prayer concerns on small pieces of paper and place these prayers in a container [*bowl, box, etc*]—a symbolic action of placing them in God’s hands, God’s care.

Let the people say, “Selah”  
**Selah!**

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 our world and our 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)**

Debra Davies

[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**

Helyn Schroeder, 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**

Debra Davies

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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