



*Sunday Worship*  
*January 24, 2021*  
*Draw near to God*  
*for God is waiting for you.*

*CALL TO WORSHIP*

*Let us start this service well, by reminding ourselves: That it is not we who chose Christ,*  
**but Christ who chose us,**

*That we are not here because of our goodness*

**but because of Christ's grace,**

*That we are not here to enlighten ourselves,*

**but to allow Christ to enlighten us,**

*That we have not come to be entertained*

**but to worship God with heart, soul, mind and strength.**

*OPENING PRAYER*

**Holy One, God of all Creation, you call us to be your people, to carry your vision in this time and place, to go where you send us, to help welcome your amazing good news. As we gather in the presence of the risen Christ to spread the news that your realm is near, fill us with your Holy Spirit that we may share your good news with a world in need. Amen.**

*HYMN #14 For the Beauty of the Earth*

1. For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

2. For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light: Lord of all to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

3. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

4. For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given; for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven: Lord of all to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

*CALL TO CONFESSION*

*Now is the appointed time. Pour out your hearts to God, bringing those harmful words you spoke, the chances to help you turned your backs on, and the foolish choices of your lives. Offer them to the One who longs to hear us, trusting that God will forgive us.*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION*

**Our comfortable lives convince us we do not need to follow Jesus, Steadfast God. Our work provides for our wants, so we have no need for your grace. Our friends are found through social media, so we do not need your community. Our fear of the beliefs and cultures of others makes us sure that we do not need to share your grace with them.**

**Forgive us for dragging our feet as Jesus' disciples, Compassionate God. May we get up from our comfort zones and step out in faith. May we go to all the uncomfortable places to bring hope. May we proclaim with our lips, but especially with our lives, that the kingdom of love is near, brought by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Do not be afraid. God is with you! That is good news. You do not have to go through life alone, wondering if anyone cares about you or knows your heart. God knows and God loves you. Rejoice for thus it is, has always been, and will continue to be. God's love for you is eternal. Know that this is true because (say it out loud) **Jesus died for me. Jesus forgives me. Jesus loves me. Jesus is good to me. Amen.***

## FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 1:14-20

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." <sup>16</sup>As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

## TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

### HYMN #170 You Walk Along Our Shoreline

1. You walk along our shoreline where land meets unknown sea.

We hear your voice of power, "Now come and follow me. And if you still will follow through storm and wave and shoal, then I will make you fishers but of the human soul.

2. You call us, Christ, to gather the people of the earth. We cannot fish for only those lives we think have worth. We spread your net of gospel across the water's face, our boat a common shelter for all found by your grace.

3. We cast our net, O Jesus; we cry the kingdom's name; we work for love and justice; we learn to hope through pain. You call us, Lord, to gather God's daughters and God's sons, to let your judgment heal us so that all may be one.

## SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Jonah 3:1-10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." <sup>3</sup>So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

<sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. <sup>6</sup>When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. <sup>7</sup>Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. <sup>8</sup>Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. <sup>9</sup>Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish." <sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

## SERMON Abounding Steadfast Love

### RECOGNITION OF THE OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**May these gifts we offer show we recognize your claim upon us, Holy God. Use them so your grace, your love, and your hope may be shared with everyone who needs them. Amen.**

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us**

**not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*HYMN #435* There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea. There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty. There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.

There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

2. For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind. And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind. If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word, and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.

*BENEDICTION*

*POSTLUDE*

## Sunday January 24, 2021 – ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY** - Join us today for Sunday school class for all ages at 11:30am on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/127591875>. For one half hour our children will be hearing stories, singing songs, engaging in activities and games about God and God's teachings.

**Study of Fellowship:** Join us this Thursday evening January 28, 2021 at 7pm on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/127591875> Meeting ID: 127 591 875 or by phone: 301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782.

Led by Su Fall, the group is exploring the New Testament book of Revelation.

**ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE:** With the ushering in of the New Year, we remember 2020, such as it was, by our annual report. All reports are due to the church office by January 25. We may have been apart for much of the year, but the work of Jesus Christ at Forest Grove Church continued. Let's celebrate that in our review!

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION:** January 31st is our annual meeting of the congregation to receive the annual reports, vote on the Ruling Elders and Deacons placed into nomination and the Pastor's terms of call. All members of the congregation are urged to join the meeting on Zoom, <https://zoom.us/j/127591875> Meeting ID: 127 591 875 or by phone: 301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782, immediately after the worship service that day for this important meeting and to celebrate who we are together in God's service.

**CONGRATULATION TO THE FOSTER FAMILY:** Due to extraordinary circumstances, Michael Vincent Foster (Mickey), infant son of Matt and Shannon Foster and little brother of Joey and Anthony, was baptized in our sanctuary on January 19, 2021. Elder Sharon Ruth represented the congregation. There will be a reaffirmation of Baptismal vows for Mickey will be held during in-person worship when it is safe to do so.

## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING – 2021 Style



**When:** Saturday, January 30, 2021 at 1:00 PM

**What:** We are inviting everyone who can and would like to make a pot of soup to be donated to Care For Friends, the organization that provides food and friendship to seniors, kids and adults in the 5-county Philadelphia region.

**Where:** We will have a Zoom gathering: <https://zoom.us/j/127591875>.

**How:** You provide your own ingredients and the church will provide individual soup containers. These can be picked up on Monday and Tuesday before the event, January 25 and 26. Bags with ten containers (16 oz.) and lids will be available outside the church in a marked container. If you need more than 10 containers because you plan to make a big pot, take more than one bag. Feel free to make whatever type of soup you wish and however much you wish. If you need some soup recipes, call the church office and we have some easy recipes available. Bring your filled containers to the church on Sunday, January 31 between 1-2:00. \*\*\*It is very important to write on the lid of the container with permanent marker the date the soup was made and what type of soup. Individual ingredients are not necessary.

Example: 1/30/21 – Chicken Noodle They will be put into the church freezer and then taken to Care for Friends on Monday, February 1. If you don't have refrigerator or freezer space, please contact the church office and arrangements will be made to pick up your soup on Saturday after the event.

**Need More Help:** If you are unable to pick up your containers or if you can't drop off your soup, please contact the church office and someone will help do the traveling for you.

**Why:** Because even during this pandemic, we are called to provide for the hungry sharing the love of our Lord in this tangible way. Also, because we need each other and we can provide joy and fellowship for each other. So bring your loving heart and join the fun! The Parish Life Committee is planning to make a virtual party out of this by inviting the “party-animals” in our midst (you know who you are) to join a virtual soup soiree. Soup preparation will take place while we socialize with each other, swap recipes and just have fun!

**Sessions:** Will be meeting Tuesday, January 26 at 7pm on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/127591875>

**Confirmation Class:** Will be meeting Wednesday afternoon at 7pm on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/127591875>

**In our thoughts and prayers:** The Conner/Lang Family, Diane Dauer, Jim and Judy Ferguson, Aleena Lang, Natalie Pizza, Bill Wark, Nancy Yerkes, Raymond Tinari