

Sunday, January 29, 2023

Epiphany 4

Prelude *“How Majestic Is Your Name”; “Thy Word”; “As the Deer”;
“Holy Ground”; “There Is A Redeemer”*

Welcome

****Call to Worship**

****Leader: With steadfast love, God calls our names.
Come to find refuge in the shelter of God’s ways.**

People: We long to be recognized and affirmed.
We are eager for a place of shelter and security.

****Leader: Feast on the abundance of God’s house.
Come to drink deeply from the fountain of life.**

People: We are ready to hear the Word of God.
We want to be guided by eternal truth.

****Leader: Reach out to claim the gifts God pours out on us.
The Spirit is eager to inspire and empower each one.**

People: When God calls us, we cannot remain silent.
When Christ is real to us, we accept our discipleship.

Opening Songs *“Blest Be the Tie that Binds”* UMC Hymn #557

****Invocation**

How awesome it is that you care for us, God of all life! Your delight in us brings out our best. When you rejoice in us, we come to believe in our capacity for goodness. When your light and salvation dawn in our lives, we want to share the joy. Remind us now of the

gifts you so freely bestow. Help us to recognize them in ourselves and in one another, that we may use them to serve people in need and give glory to your name. Amen.

Prayers, the Lord's Prayer and Offering of Gifts

****Invitation: What will we give in gratitude for God's forgiveness and healing grace? Who can repay the many gifts we have received with the miracle of life? Let us rejoice in the mission God entrusts to us.**

****Will you pray with me? God of our baptism, whose Holy Spirit fires our imagination and fills our lives with purpose, we rejoice to commit ourselves anew with our gifts. May what we share strengthen your children spiritually, inspiring each person to invest fully in the work you set before us. The varieties of gifts you entrust to us can be realized only if they are used. Thank you for granting us this joy. Amen.**

Praise Song *"This Little Light of Mine"* UMC Hymn # 585

****Scripture Reading** 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 NRSV

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of

