



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

GATHERED TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE



JANUARY 27TH, 2019

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Welcome

Please turn off cell phones in the sanctuary.

Children in Worship

Infants and children bring life to our worship and are always welcome. Worship Activity Bags for children are located at the back of the church: teal bags for 2-5 years, navy blue for 6-10 years. We offer childcare in our professionally staffed nursery in our downstairs nursery for children ages infancy through 6 years old.

Sunday School

Preschool through adult Sunday morning learning is offered during the 9 o'clock hour in the Christian Education wing located on the lower level.

Sunday Brunch

Please join us for fellowship after worship in the Son Cafe. Today's menu is: Cornbread medley with cubed ham, cheddar cheese, sour cream; scrambled eggs; mixed greens with fruit, toaster items, cookies and such.

Interested in Membership?

Contact Pastor Craig, call (309)-762-0787 or email craig@fccmoline.org.

Wi-Fi Password Welcome!

Resources

Ushers can provide large print bulletins and hearing amplifiers.

Open and Affirming

We are an ONA church, please visit fccmoline.org/ona for more information.

Getting connected

Please fill our pew pads to offer us a record of your attendance.

Cover Art *Jesus Unrolls the Book in the Synagogue*, Tissot, James (1836-1902)

Today
from the life
of the church

Was Jesus literate?

There are two specific instances in the scripture where Jesus is depicted as reading or writing. One is the Gospel passage for today, where Jesus reads in the synagogue and the other is from John 8:6-8 where Jesus writes in the dirt.

A few weeks back, when I preached about Jesus getting left behind in Jerusalem and being found in the temple with the scholars I made the point that Jesus was bar mitzvah-ed on the trip. If that is so, then he needed to be able to read the Hebrew Scripture. And also, that would be consistent with the situation today. He is at home in Nazareth and being asked to take his turn reading the scripture and talking in the assembly.

It is fair to say that the Jesus portrayed in Luke is clearly literate.

Pastor Michael

Gathering of God's People

PRELUDE

Präludium in F, BMV 556 - J.S. Bach

GREETING AND WELCOME

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me
Because God has anointed me

To preach good news to the poor.

God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

And recovery of sight to the blind

To set at liberty those who are oppressed.

And proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

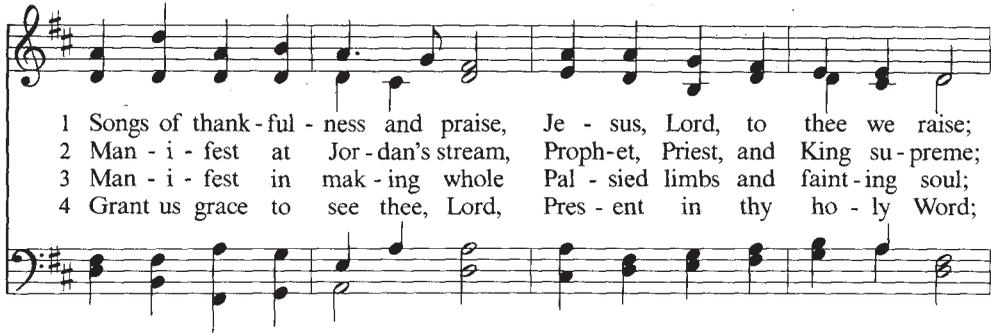
***OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray. **O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the Peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

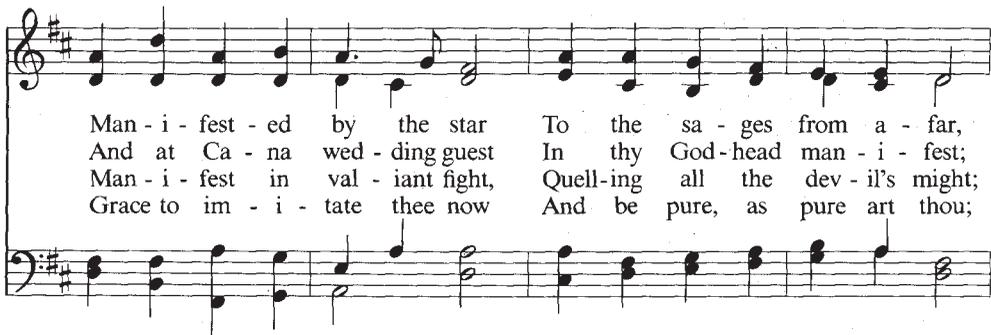
***OPENING HYMN**

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise
Episcopal Hymnal 1941
(On Next Page)

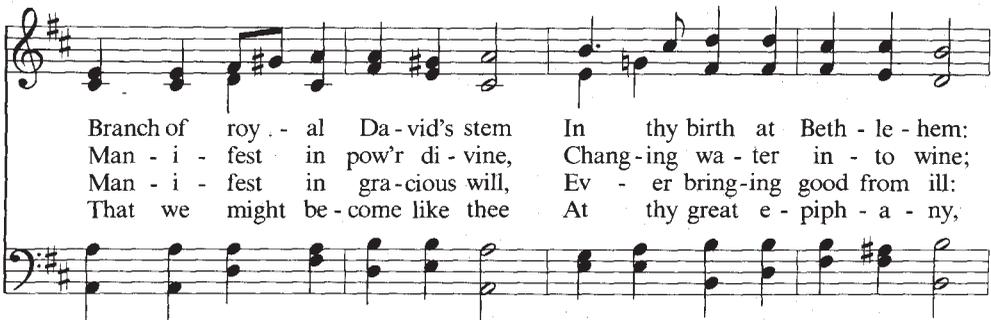
Songs of Thankfulness and Praise



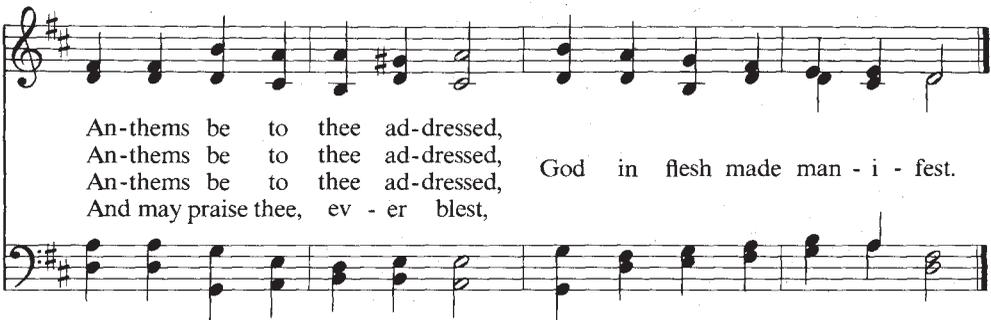
1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su - preme;
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole Pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;
4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, Pres - ent in thy ho - ly Word;



Man - i - fest - ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far,
And at Ca - na wed - ding guest In thy God - head man - i - fest;
Man - i - fest in val - iant fight, Quell - ing all the dev - il's might;
Grace to im - i - tate thee now And be pure, as pure art thou;



Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
Man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, Chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
Man - i - fest in gra - cious will, Ev - er bring - ing good from ill:
That we might be - come like thee At thy great e - piph - a - ny,



An - thems be to thee ad - dressed,
An - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
An - thems be to thee ad - dressed,
And may praise thee, ev - er blest,

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Silence is kept for reflection.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Let us pray. **Mighty and loving God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We seek our own way. We divide the body of Christ. In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us. Let the words of our mouths, the thoughts of our hearts, and everything that we do be filled with faith, hope, and love. Amen.**

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

***SONG OF PRAISE**

Gloria



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: 'Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: 'Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!'. There are triplets and a quartet indicated above the notes in the second staff.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Funga Alafia, arr. Gallina
(Downing, piano / Bailey, drum)

CHILDREN'S TIME

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Proclaiming the Good News

SCRIPTURE

NEHEMIAH 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 19

The Heavens declare the glory of God,

and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

One day tells its tale to another,

and one night imparts knowledge to another.

Although they have no words or language,

and their voices are not heard.

Their sound has gone out into all lands,

and their message to the ends of the world,

for God has pitched a tent for the sun.

It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;

it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens

and runs about to the end of it again;

nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;

the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;

the commandment of the Lords is clear

and gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever;

the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired than gold, much more than fine gold,

sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

By them also is your servant enlightened,

and in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can detect one's own offenses?

Cleanse me from my secret faults.

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;

let them not get dominion over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

be acceptable in your sight,

O Lord my strength and my redeemer.

SCRIPTURE

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31a

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

The Smallest Things, by James Clemens

***GOSPEL**

LUKE 4:14-21

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Michael Swartz

***HYMN**

466, *O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing*

Responding to the Good News

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

INVITATION

OFFERTORY

“Intermezzo” from *Cavalleria Rusticana*
- Mascagni, arr. R.Schultz

*DOXOLOGY

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Sending in Mission

***HYMN OF SENDING**

461, *God Is Here*

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

“Closing Theme” from Piano Concerto No. 2
- Rachmaninoff, arr. A.Small

Guest Pianist/Organist:
Patrick Downing



*The altar flowers are given
to the glory of God and in loving memory of
the birthday of Judge Robert M. Bell*

Given by: Tim and Tony Bell

SERVING TODAY

Ushers

Waletzko Family

Usher Guides:

Dixie Duckett

Noah Suman

North Door Greeters

Lucy Manis

Bill Keller

Guest Pianist/Organist

Patrick Downing

Lector

Michael Dyer

Liturgist

Audra Bailey

Sound Tech

Dave Geenen

Bus Driver

Pat Oberg

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Gathered to Share God's Love