



Elijah Kellogg Church, Congregational

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Rev. Mr. Joseph Connolly, Interim Pastor

ELIJAH KELLOGG CHURCH WORSHIP

February 4, 2024 - Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Communion Sunday

Thoughts for Meditation — “I wanted a perfect ending. Now I’ve learned, the hard way, that some poems don’t rhyme, and some stories don’t have a clear beginning, middle, and end. Life is about not knowing, having to change, taking the moment and making the best of it, without knowing what’s going to happen next. Delicious ambiguity.” — Gilda Radner, actress and comedian (1946-1989)

“To the question whether I am a pessimist or an optimist, I answer that my knowledge is pessimistic, but my willing and hoping are optimistic.” — Albert Schweitzer, philosopher, physician, musician, Nobel laureate (1875-1965)

“A poem begins in delight and ends in wisdom.” — Robert Frost

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace...

Call to Worship —

ONE: Worship God, Who is from everlasting to everlasting.

MANY: The whole universe stands within God’s realm. God’s creative Spirit remains active throughout the universe.

ONE: God’s creative Spirit remains active continuing to expand the work of the realm of God right here on this planet.

MANY: God rules in all time and all space yet God cares about us; God is pleased with those who strive to reflect steadfast love.

* INVOCATION

* HYMN — *God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand*

INSERT

An Order for the Sacrament of Communion

{*Note: in the Protestant Tradition we celebrate two sacraments. Baptism is one. The sharing of bread and cup is known by several names: Eucharist, Communion and the Lord’s Supper. All are welcome at the table, including children who may partake of the Sacrament at the discretion of parents, care-givers or guardians. Note: We use only gluten-free bread for Communion services.*}

CALL FOR OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*OFFERING RESPONSE (DOXOLOGY)

Old One-hundredth

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Owning Our Church Covenant

We covenant with one another to seek and respond to the Word and the Will of God. We purpose to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our community, the nation and all the world, while worshipping God and striving for truth, justice and peace. As did our forebears, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the Kingdom of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.

CONFESSION

Let us humbly confess our sins in silence to God. (Silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We now rest assured of God's forgiveness through Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

RESPONSIVE COMMUNION PRAYERS

ONE: God be with you.

MANY: And also with you.

ONE: Be free with your hearts.

MANY: We give them freely to God.

ONE: Let us give thanks to God.

MANY: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

CONSECRATION

Holy God, we praise You for Your creation, remember Your covenant, made with Your people, shown in fullness with the birth of Jesus and completed in the resurrection of the Christ. We remember too, that on the night of betrayal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus took the cup, saying: "This is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of me."

Consecrate, therefore, by Your Holy Spirit, O God, these gifts, and bless us that, as we receive them, we may be united with Christ and one another, and continue to be faithful in all things. Amen.

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ. And through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us now pray, as the saints who have witnessed to us and preceded us throughout the ages have prayed by reciting *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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

(Note: when the elements are distributed it is suggested you partake of the bread when it is received. This is a symbol of our freedom. It is suggested we partake the cup together as a symbol of our unity.)

These are the gifts of God for the people of God; take them in remembrance that Christ died and was raised for you.

THANKSGIVING

We thank you God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth Your presence in our lives. We pray these things in the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES IN THE SECTION KNOWN AS THE PROPHETS — Isaiah 40:21-31 [ILV]

[21] Do you not know? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

[22] It is *Yahweh*, God, who sits above the circle of the earth,

above the vaulted roof of the world,

and its inhabitants look like grasshoppers;

God stretches out the skies, the heavens like a curtain,

and spreads them like a tent for mortals to live under;

[23] It is God who brings princes to naught,

reduces the privileged to nothing,

and throws the rulers of the earth into chaos.

[24] Scarcely are they planted, scarcely are they sown,

scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,

when God blows upon them, and they wither,

and the tempest carries them off like chaff.

[25] “To whom, then, will you compare me,
or who is my equal?” says the Holy One.

[26] Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these stars?

The One who brings out
this multitude and numbers them,
calling them each by name.

Because God is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not a single one is missing.

[27] How can you say, O tribe
of Leah and Rachel and Jacob,
how can you speak, O Israel,
(quote): “My way, my destiny is hidden from *Yahweh*,
and my rights are ignored by my God”?

[28] Do you not know? Have you not heard?
Yahweh is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

This God does not faint or grow weary;
This is a God whose depth
of understanding is unsearchable.

[29] God gives strength to the faint,
gives strength to the weary
and empowers the powerless.

[30] Even youths will grow tired and be weary,
and will stumble and fall exhausted;

[31] but those who wait for *Yahweh*, God,
shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up, soar with
wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and never tire.

* HYMN — *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* INSERT

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS —Mark 1:29-39 [ILV]

[29] As soon as Jesus and the disciples James and John left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew. [30] Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her at once.

[31] Jesus came and took her by the hand, lifted her up and the fever left her. Then she went about her work.

[32] At sundown, as evening drew on, they brought to Jesus all who were ill or possessed by demons. [33] And everyone in the town crowded around the door. [34] And Jesus healed many various diseases and cast out many demons but would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew who this Rabbi was.

[35] Rising early the next morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went off to a lonely deserted place and prayed there. [36] Simon and some companions managed to find Jesus [37] and said, “Everyone is searching for you.”

[38] Jesus answered, “Let us move on to the neighboring towns and villages so I may proclaim the message in them also. That is what I have come to do.” [39] So Jesus went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message of the Good News in their synagogues and casting out demons.

SPECIAL MUSIC — *The Lord's Prayer* by Jean Sibelius, adapted by Orrin Keener

MEDITATION — *The Everlasting God*

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

SILENCE

* HYMN — *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* INSERT, v. 1, 2

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE —
Precious Lord, Take My Hand INSERT, v. 3

Postlude

Harpswell Community Radio – WHPW 97.3 FM

Harpswell Community Television – Channel 14

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/7960701>

Serving you this morning:	
Interim Minister	Rev. Mr. Joseph Connolly
Pianist	Elizabeth Cromwell
Reader	Ned Pierce
Ushers	Dana McIntire & Chris McIntire
Coffee Hour	Hospitality

Pastor Joe's office hours for the week of February 5th

Monday, February 5th, 9am – 11am

The Bible Study passage for Monday, February 5th at 11:00 a.m. is:

Mark 9:2-9.

Meetings scheduled for the week of February 5th:

Deacons Tuesday, February 6th @ 7pm

Missions Friday, February 9th @ 10am

God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand

Daniel C. Roberts, 1841-1907

NATIONAL HYMN 10.10.10.10.

George W. Warren, 1828-1902

Trumpets, before each stanza
(optional)

1 God of our fa - thers, whose al - might - y hand
2 Thy love di - vine hath led us in the past;
3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti - lence,
4 Re - fresh thy peo - ple on their toil - some way;

Leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
In this free land by thee our lot is cast;
Be thy strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense;
Lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;

Of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies,
Be thou our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay,
Thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease;
Fill all our lives with love and grace di - vine,

Our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.
Thy word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.
Thy boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
And glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine. A - men.

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Edwin Hatch, 1835-1889, alt.

Second Tune

TRENTHAM S.M.

Robert Jackson, 1840-1914

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Breathe on Me, Breath of God'. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef and a bass clef, both in 3/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with life a - new, 2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, Un - til my heart is pure, 3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, Till I am whol - ly thine, 4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, So shall I nev - er die. The second system continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: That I may love what thou dost love, And do what thou wouldst do. Un - til with thee I will one will To do and to en - dure. Un - til this earth - ly part of me Glows with thy fire di - vine. But live with thee the per - fect life Of thine e - ter - ni - ty. A - men.

Nominating Committee

What an opportunity!

If you've been looking for a way to become more involved in EKC life, the Nominating Committee has a suggestion. We are looking for people to fill a handful of vacancies on some boards and committees. Like to entertain? We need two more people on Hospitality. The Trustees could use you. Like kids and class work? Christian Ed needs one more volunteer, as does Finance. And our spiritual leaders - the Deacons- also have a vacancy.

If you're interested in serving, or just curious about these groups, please talk to any member of the Nominating Committee: Dick Moseley, Pat Myer, Sharon Kirker, Eric Wohltjen or Carol Coultas.

Women's Fellowship Meeting Tuesday, February 6th

The next meeting of the Women's Fellowship will be on Tuesday, February 6th at 11:00 am in Fellowship Hall. The program will be presented by Elly and Charlie Cary. They have a slide show of their trip and it's called "Classical Greece and The Islands." All are invited (men and women) to come to the program which will start at 11:00. Please bring a bag lunch of your choice and this will be followed by our business meeting.

Dessert, coffee and tea will be provided.

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932; alt.

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3 When the shad - ows ap - pear and the night draws near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
when my life is al - most gone,
and the day is past and gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:
At the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

Refrain

Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

Prayer Requests for February 4, 2024

At home...

Hope Tanguay
Mark Wilson

Pat Moody
Connie Henry

Bill Menz

In nursing homes...

Sam Wright
David Ferris

In assisted living...

Gary Anderson
Ernestine Machesney

Tom Jones
Joan Phillips

Away...

Richard Haley

C V Noyes

Sick, in the hospital or rehabilitation...

Recovering from illness or surgery...

Dana Porter Carson

George Perkins

Grieving...

Family of George Patterson

Family of Wendell Davidson

Thanksgivings...

The Pastoral Search Committee

Special concerns...

The School House 1913 fire victims Joseph Arena & Caroline Daniel

For the people in the paths of storms and fires

Emergency responders / Health care workers / Essential workers...

Praise God for our partnership with WHPW and Channel 14!

Please keep those named above in your prayers. If you have any questions, or would like others to be prayed for, please contact Susan Ferris, Chairperson of our Prayer Circle.

Susan can be reached at 666-3247 or sueherb@myfairpoint.net.

Missions

Our contribution to MCHP for the month of January was 85lbs of food and \$20 cash.
Thank you to all who contributed to this much needed cause.

THE SOUPER BOWL IS NEARLY UPON US !!



On Sunday, February 4th and Sunday, February 11th, there will be a basket representing the Kansas City Chiefs and one for the San Francisco 49'ers. To cast a ballot for your winning team choice, place your soup donations in the appropriate basket. The donations for each team will be weighed at the food bank and the heaviest weight wins!

The results will be announced on Sunday, February 18th.

Have an enjoyable Souper Bowl while helping others.

Thank you,
Your Board of Missions

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Sunday, February 11 - 2023 EKC Annual Report and Annual Meeting Agenda will be available for distribution.

2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 18 - 2024 Annual Meeting in Fellowship Hall (11:15 am)

Copies of the annual report and meeting agenda will also be available as a .pdf document and the annual meeting will be available on the Church Zoom platform for those unable to attend in person. Please notify Stephanie (adminassist@elijahkelloggchurch.org or 207-833-6026) in the Church office for a digital copy of the annual report and agenda. The Zoom link for the meeting will be included in the February 15th Weekly News & Notes email.