

# Seventh Sunday After the Epiphany

February 23, 2014 ♦ 11:00 a.m. Worship

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## Welcome

### \*Passing of the Peace

#### Chiming of the Hour *(please be seated)*

#### Prelude

*Flying Free* by Don Besig  
Sanctuary Choir

### \*Call to Worship

Leader: We gather for worship in the midst of a broken world.

**People: Let us learn of God's way to serve.**

Leader: We gather for worship to build ways of love.

**All: For the strengthening presence of God and each other,  
we lift our voices in joy and praise!**

### \*Opening Hymn #98

*To God Be the Glory*

### \*Centering Prayer

God of grace and glory, we enter this service of worship with reverence and awe. We have set aside this time and place as sacred space in which to encounter your Spirit, listen for your voice and be transformed by the reality of your presence. Open our eyes, our ears and our hearts so that we may experience you in unexpected and remarkable ways. Shine your light into the recesses of our lives, exposing to us that which holds us back from living abundant, free and joyful lives of discipleship. Give to us your word of truth, justice, mercy and forgiveness that we need to receive in order to be lifelines of hope to a world floundering in fear and despair. Amen.

### Ministry Moment – United Methodist Men

Don Bowman

#### Anthem

*A Friend is a Wonderful Thing* by Terry Kirkland  
Carol Choir

### Children's Message

#### Anthem

*Fly Away Medley* arr. Mark Hayes  
Sanctuary Choir

### Ministry of the Word 1 Corinthians 3:16-23 (The Message)

### \*Hymn of Preparation #454

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*

#### Sermon

“Step By Step”

Rev. Bates

Text: Matthew 5:38-48 (The Message)

## Litany of Response

Leader: Mighty God, we pray for all those whose lives are governed by fear — of failure, pain, illness, loss and the fears we lay before you now, aloud or silently.

**People: God of mercy, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Holy God, we pray for all those who seek reconciliation — with a family member, a friend, a coworker and any we name before you now, aloud or silently.

**People: God of hope, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Loving God, we pray for those ill in body, mind or spirit, especially those we name before you now, aloud or silently.

**People: God of compassion, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Merciful God, we pray for all those living in anger — in naming those things that make us angry before you now, aloud or silently, may the anger be released.

**People: God of grace, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Holy God, we lift all the concerns of our hearts and minds and ask you to renew, strengthen and restore us.

## Prayers of the People

### The Lord's Prayer #895

#### Choral Amen

### Offering & Offertory

*Sanctuary* by Thompson & Scruggs

### \*Doxology #95

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Good and generous God, we pray that your life would so overflow in us that our neighbors both near and far would be fed by your Spirit. Use the offerings of our resources and our lives to proclaim the gospel, spread your love and bring forth your kingdom. For the sake of Christ we pray. Amen.**

### \*Closing Hymn (insert)

*The Summons*

### \*Benediction

Leader: Jesus said the greatest thing we could do is to love God and love others.

**People: We go now and love -- not with a love that is superficial or conditional, but with a love that is pure and generous.**

Leader: Go now and love. Love your spouses, love your friends, love your children, love your neighbors, love those who are easy to love and those who are not; love all.

**People: As God has loved, this is how we should love.**

Leader: In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, go now and love.

### \*Postlude

*Improvisation on My Lord, What a Morning*