

Flowers Given By: **Margo Light**, in appreciation of the staff

PRELUDE *Prélude sur l'Introit de l'Epiphanie* Maurice Duruflé

CALL to WORSHIP

One: Jesus said: blessed are those who struggle, stay open, and seek the Sacred.

Many: We come with open hearts to such truth.

One: Jesus said: blessed are those whose souls sag and lag; whose worth is not based on the balance in a bank account.

Many: We come seeking ways to live this truth.

One: Jesus said: blessed are the ones whose lives are caught up in the Creator and seek to *be* peace in the world.

Many: Let God's shalom sing to all of Sarasota. It is good to be here!! Amen.

OPENING HYMN *Rejoice, You Pure in Heart* #55

Rejoice, you pure in heart; lift praises to the sky; Your festal banner wave with joy, the cross of Christ raise high!

Bright youth and seasoned age, strong souls and spirits meek, Raise high your free, exulting song, God's wondrous praises speak. Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice give thanks and sing.

With voice as full and strong as ocean's surging praise, Send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of ancient days. Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice give thanks and sing.

Yes, on through life's long path, still chanting as you go. From youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe: Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice give thanks and sing.

Praise God who rules all worlds, the risen Christ adore, Praise God the Spirit, Holy Fire, one God forever more! Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice give thanks and sing.

*OPENING PRAYER

God of upside-down wisdom that causes our minds to short-circuit, Your ways are not our ways. As we hike up the mountain with Jesus, see him sit on a large bolder, we listen baffled and bewildered by words like, "Blessed are the poor, meek, mourning, pure in heart, and persecuted". We confess such sentences perplex and puzzle us. We confess we are not sure we can live our lives this way? What will our family, friends, neighbors think or say? We need Your guidance and grace to open our imagination to You. Disrupt us with Your divine wisdom. Interrupt our ways with Your truths. Let us not only nod our heads at the Beatitudes, but let our hearts be caught up in embracing and embodying these words every day. Amen.

*SUNG RESPONSE *Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit* #180

**Blessed are the poor in spirit: heaven will someday be theirs.
Blessed are the mourning children: comfort comes from One who cares,**

**Blessed the meek and patient, having courage to hang on.
Soon all earth they will inherit; times of trials will be gone.**

**Blessed all who thirst or hunger: righteously they will be fed.
Those who respond with mercy will see mercy up ahead.
Blessed the clean in spirit beautiful, the pure in heart;
One day they will see their Maker, never more to live apart.**

**Each seeking peace and justice shall be known as God's own heir.
Blessed, too, are those ill treated for what's good and right and fair.
Blessed the New Creation, joy beyond what we conceive;
Blessed all those who trust the promise: without seeing, they believe!**

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:1-11

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying: ³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

SERMON

More than Good Advice

ANTHEM

Blest Are They

arr. Mark Hayes

PASTORAL PRAYER and 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.

*CLOSING HYMN

Come! Live in the Light!

#749

Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord! We are called to be the light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God.

Refrain **We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly; we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.**

Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear! We are called to be hope for the hopeless so hatred and violence will be no more. *Refrain*

Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love. *Refrain*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Postlude in C

Arthur Foote

Announcements ~ Sunday, January 22, 2023

2023 flower chart is now available!! Please consider giving altar flowers for an upcoming Sunday. You can call Sherry in the church office. Thank you!!

SURE – Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity News ~

The SURE Civil Citations Team will be meeting at the SURE Office, located on our campus, Monday, January 23rd at 6:00pm. The SURE Affordable Housing Team will meet at the First Presbyterian Church in Room 203 Saturday, February 4th from 2:00pm to 4:00pm.

The Annual Meeting will be held on January 29th immediately following the worship service in the sanctuary. The meeting will be live cast on **YouTube and Facebook**. Please stay on-line after the postlude and we will begin the Annual Meeting as soon as possible. If you are not able to attend in person, you can pick up a **paper ballot to vote in the office due to the church by January 26**. This year at our annual meeting we will vote on: Financial Reports 2022; Budget 2023; Nominating Report; By-law Revisions

Today ~ January 22nd, we will offer a conversation on proposed By-law revisions after the 11 am service in Syster Hall.

Come one, come all, to the Women's Association's lunch and program on **Tuesday, February 7**, at 11:30a.m. in Syster Hall. **Linda Burry**, a fitness instructor for Crunch, will talk to us about "Mind, Body, and Spirit." Attendees are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes and clothes for gentle movements anyone can do. Linda is very much a woman of faith and believes strongly in the mind/body/spirit connections. Luncheon costs \$12. Sign up after either Sunday service or call the church office at 941-953-7044.

January 29 ~ Classical Black ~ Black Excellence in Classical Music 5:00pm at The Palladium ~ St. Petersburg The Woodson African American Museum of Florida in partnership with the St. Petersburg Opera Company and the St. Petersburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc are presenting this performance featuring all black classical performers. Purchase tickets at: <https://mypalladium.org/events/classic-black/>

February 2 ~ Traces of the Trade 6:30 pm at the Mildred Sainer Pavillion at New College ~ 5313 Bay Shore Rd. Sarasota. A journey by filmmaker Katrina Browne and nine of her cousins into the dark past of the slave trade which enriched their white New England family. The descendants of the DeWolf family of Rhode Island, one of the largest slave trading families in American history, retrace their family's involvement in the Triangle Trade from New England to Ghana and back to America. Dain Perry, one of the nine cousins featured in the film, and his wife Constance will facilitate a conversation on race, reconciliation and healing. Food will be available at 5:30 pm, followed by the film and discussion at 6:30 pm. **THIS EVENT IS FREE! REGISTER BELOW.**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/traces-of-the-trade-documentary-film-screening-tickets-505454687577>

It is me standing in the need of prayer

You are invited to pay attention to and set an intention toward prayer. **Tuesdays in February (7, 14, 21, and 28) at 1 pm in the Oasis Center and zoom**, there is an opportunity to both be in prayer and talk about prayer. The sessions will be recorded, posted to YouTube and Facebook so you can watch when convenient. In this month, as we celebrate Valentines Day, the gift of God's love would be sweeter than chocolate, more abundant than those heart-shaped hard candies, and remind each of us that you are named and known by God as "Beloved". Please contact Pastor Wes for the Zoom link.

Saturday, February 4th is our Leadership Retreat. We invite all those serving on Teams to attend! Coffee and refreshments begin at 8:45 am with the **program starting at 9:15 am**. This is a time to connect with others and prepare for the coming year. **This will be a hybrid event for those who need to Zoom**. Please contact Wes for the zoom link. There will be time for each Team to meet. If you have any questions please see Nancy Morris or Pastor Wes.

Sunday, January 22

Sunday Worship, 9 am, sanctuary
Sunday Worship, 11 am, in the sanctuary and online
By law conversation, noon, Syster Hall
Reading the Bible in a Year conversation, 1 pm, Oasis

Monday, January 23

Reading the Bible in a Year conversation, 1 pm, Oasis

Tuesday, January 24

COLLAGE (LGBTQ and ally group), 11 am, Zoom
Bible Study, 6:30 pm, Zoom

Wednesday, January 25

Security Team meeting, 9:30 am, Zoom
Bible Study, 11 am, Hybrid ~ Oasis and Zoom
Sacred Conversation on Race, 3 pm, Zoom
Choir, 7 pm, Chapel

Thursday, January 26

Mapping Your Life, 4 pm, Hybrid ~ Oasis and Zoom

Sunday, January 29 ~ Annual Meeting Sunday

Sunday Worship, 9 am, sanctuary
Sunday Worship, 11 am, in the sanctuary and online
Annual meeting will begin immediately following the postlude

We encourage you to subscribe to the weekly **Midweek Message via your email** to keep connected with activities in the church.