



**We Gather in Spirit. ~ Worship
1/31/21**

**Welcome to Worship with
Kingston Presbyterian Church**

**Please join us by phone by calling into the
service using this number,**

**1-929-436-2866,
Meeting ID: 684 366 329**

Passcode: 322123

Call to Worship:

Psalm 1:1-3

Leader: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers.

People: **But their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.**

Leader: They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.

People: **In all that they do, they prosper.**

Leader: Let us worship God together.

Introduction to This Worship Service Based on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

Welcome to our worship service today. This morning we will be hearing Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which is found in Matthew, chapters 5, 6, and 7. This sermon is a wonderful collection of Jesus' teachings that tells us about living in God's way — in God's kingdom. Matthew tells us that Jesus went up a mountain to preach, and so we are reminded of all the other places in the Bible where people encounter God, and the word of God, on mountaintops. For example, Exodus tells us that Moses received the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai (Exodus 19-20). First Kings tells us that Elijah encountered God on a mountain (1 Kings 19). So when Matthew says, "Jesus went up a mountain and taught," he is saying to us: "Listen carefully! What you are about to hear is important; God is speaking to you here!" Each section of Jesus' teaching and sermon that we read will be followed by a hymn or a prayer or other response that ties to his sermon. You may have heard sermons on Jesus' sermon on the Mount but today we spend time hearing from Jesus, may the Holy Spirit open our hearts and our ears to hear God's love, compassion and call to each of us. Be mindful of where your heart get caught and stirred, that is the Holy Spirit moving, teaching and affirming your call to follow Jesus and be God's people.

Hymn Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

PH 356 (GTG 475)

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing; Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;

Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above; Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love! **Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:1-20**

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

2 Then 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 righteousness' sake, 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. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

13 You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

14 You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

17 Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.

18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.

19 Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Prayer (unison)

O God, we thank you for Jesus' teachings to all who follow him. We thank you for the blessings of the Beatitudes, and for the wonderful surprises they bring us, about what it means for your church to live in your kingdom. Help us by your Spirit to hear your word in scripture, and to follow your way in our lives. Make us salt and light to your world. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:21-42

21 You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, "You shall not murder"; and "whoever murders shall be liable to judgment."

22 But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, "You fool," you will be liable to the hell of fire.

23 So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you,

24 leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison.

26 Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

27 You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery."

28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

31 It was also said, "Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce."

32 But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

33 Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, "You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord."

34 But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,

35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.

36 And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.

37 Let your word be "Yes, Yes" or "No, No"; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

38 You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."

39 But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also;

40 and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well;

41 and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile.

42 Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

O God, we have heard Jesus' teachings many times, but we confess that sometimes we think they are impractical. We let anger take hold of us. We fail to keep our commitments to you and to others. We lack courage to follow Jesus' way of love. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to find joy in obedience to you. (Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Jesus teaches us in Matthew 7:11, "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" In Jesus Christ, God gives us the gift of forgiveness.

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:43-48

- 43 You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy."
44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
45 so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.
46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same?
47 And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?
48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Hymn: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

PH 356 (GTG 475)

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:1-15

- 1 Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.
2 So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.
3 But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,
4 so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

5 And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.
6 But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

7 When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words.

8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

9 Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.

14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you;

15 but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Hymn Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

PH 356 (GTG 475)

O, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!

Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering, heart to thee.

Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

Here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

The Lord's Prayer ("debts" and "debtors")

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:16-21 as a Responsive Reading

Leader: And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

People: But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Leader: Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal;

People: But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal.

All: For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:22-34

22 The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light;

23 but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

24 No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

25 Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

26 Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

27 And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?

28 And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin,

29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you — you of little faith?

31 Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?"

32 For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

33 But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

34 So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Hymn We Are One in the Spirit

GTG 300

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that our unity will one day be restored:

(Refrain) And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Prayer

Leader: We trust that God loves us and cares for our daily needs. Let us bring to God our worries, our concerns for others, and our joys. Let us pray.

Pastoral Prayer We are a pilgrim people on a journey deeper into the heart of God. But we stumble. We fall. Still God, You call us to arise, setting aside all that hinders us from following. Jesus you say, "Come unto me, all you who are weary and I will give you rest for your soul." You will run and not be weary . . . walk and not faint. Trusting in the mercies of you, Lord, we confess our shortcomings before You and one another that we might be relieved of all that gets in the way of walking in the freedom of your love. (Praying silently)

Eternal God, you sent us a Savior, Christ Jesus, to break down the walls of hostility that divide us. Send peace on earth, and put down greed, pride, and anger, which turn nation against nation and race against race. Speed the day when wars will end and the whole world accepts your rule. O God, whom we cannot love unless we love our neighbors, remove hate and prejudice from us and from all people, so that your children may be reconciled with those we fear, resent, or threaten; and live together in your peace.

Mighty God, sovereign over the nations, direct those who make, administer, and judge our laws; we pray for the leaders of our nation, the President and others in authority among us, that, guided by your wisdom, they may lead us in the way of righteousness, that, with goodwill and justice, they may take down barriers, and draw together one new world in peace.

Merciful God, you bear the pain of the world. Look with compassion on those who are sick, cheer them by your word, and bring healing as a sign of your grace. We pray for continued healing and patience for those recovering from surgeries. We pray for those looking for new ways forward in their health care and for those recovering from Covid and other unnamed challenges of body, mind and spirit.

God of comfort, stand with those who sorrow, that they may be sure that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, shall separate them from Your love. We pray for all those walking with grief, new and old. May they know your peace and comfort refreshed.

God of joy, we thank you for all the places and ways we marked last week at our Annual Meeting. We thank you for all the ways you have and will use KPC to be a witness of your love, mercy and justice. Help us to claim your joy and raise our praise.

Lord, we pray to you now with hope. We have hope in the saving grace of Jesus Christ! We give you thanks for all the good we see even in these hard times. We give you thanks for our mission partners and lift them up to you. Be with them and may your Spirit encourage their work this week. Give strength and encouragement to our mission partners: close to home with the Presbytery of New Brunswick, The Desais (ISI) as they work alongside international students and the unknown of this coming academic year, Intersvarsity Christian Fellowship, Committee on Religious Ministries (Princeton Hospital Chaplaincy), Young Life. *Internationally we lift up* - Katie Wolf (Haiti), The Kishores (New Life Associates-India), The Riddells (World Team), Karla Koll (Costa Rica), Medical Benevolence Foundation, The Levis (Operation Nehemiah-Africa), The Tebbes (Pakistan).

Thank you for the gift of partnership with you and with each other. We have hope because your Son is working in and through each of us! We have hope in your forgiveness! God, remind us of our hope, even in the midst of despair, heartbreak, and stressful situations. May we hold each other up, not only when we come together, but through daily reminders, prayers, and affirmations. Thank you, Lord, for your love for us made real in Christ and by your Spirit. May we embody you, O Christ in all we do. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:1-6

- 1 Do not judge, so that you may not be judged.
- 2 For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get.
- 3 Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye?
- 4 Or how can you say to your neighbor, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," while the log is in your own eye?
- 5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye.
- 6 Do not give what is holy to dogs; and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you.

Hymn

We Are One in the Spirit

GTG 300

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:

(Refrain) And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Prayer (unison)

God, you have given us the wondrous gift of faith, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to find joy in this precious gift — not wasting it or ignoring it — but sharing it with others. Amen.

Affirmation

Leader: Let us affirm this precious faith that God has given us, using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

The Apostles' Creed

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:7-12

- 7 Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.
- 8 For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.
- 9 Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone?
- 10 Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake?
- 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!
- 12 In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.

Time of Silent Prayer

Leader: What do you need to ask of God? Please take a few moments for silent prayer, and ask... seek... knock...

(Silent Prayer) And the whole congregation said. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:13-20

13 Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it.

14 For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

15 Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

16 You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles?

17 In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit.

18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.

19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

20 Thus you will know them by their fruits.

Hymn

We Are One in the Spirit

GTG 300

We will work with each other, we will work side by side;

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,

And we'll guard human dignity and save human pride:

(Refrain) And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Prayer (unison)

Loving God, help us to give ourselves to you anew, each day. Help us to listen to your voice and to find joy in following your way. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:21-29

21 Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

22 On that day many will say to me, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?"

23 Then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers."

24 Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.

25 The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.

26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a

foolish man who built his house on sand.

27 The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell — and great was its fall!

28 Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching,

29 for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

Hymn

We Are One in the Spirit

GTG 300

All praise to the Father from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one:

(Refrain) And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Charge Go in peace and serve the Lord, being the salt and light you were created to be.

Benediction In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Go in the name of the Lord.
Amen.

The flowers this morning are given in Honor of Carol Luck in celebration of her Birthday and with Thanksgiving for her Love, Encouragement and Guidance; given by her husband, children and granddaughters



In collaboration, adapted and with thanks to Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.