



2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
January 17, 2021

MEDITATION

Christ has no body now on earth but yours,
no hands but yours,
no feet but yours,
yours are the eyes
through which Christ's compassion
is to look out to the world,
yours are the feet
with which he is to go about
doing good and
yours are the hands
with which he is to bless us now.

St Teresa of Ávila

PRELUDE

Prelude in G, Op. 37

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

Chant de paix (Song of Peace)

Jean Langlais
(1907-1991)

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Laurel Oldach, *liturgist*

CALL TO WORSHIP GOD (from Psalm 29)

Laurel Oldach, *liturgist*

God built the heavens, the earth, and everything in them.
God calls us to be builders as well.

God calls us to build our lives:
to restore broken places and continue to grow.

God calls us to build our faith:
to study the Word and ponder its interpretation.

God calls us to build our community:
to build bridges of understanding and systems of justice.

God calls us to build history by fulfilling the promises of Scripture:
to preach the good news of God's love and liberation for all people.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God,
Show us how to love all the people of the earth, of all colors and kinds:
those with technology and without;
those who make do with very little and who use many resources;
those with formal education and those without;
those who call upon your name and those who do not;
so that all your children may be glorified
in the name of the One who brought glory and liberty,
Christ Jesus, our salvation. Amen.

*Hymn singing is vital to our community life. Although distanced from one another, we can be united through song.
Join in singing the hymns with the recorded voices of our Choir and organ.*

HYMN OF PRAISE 466

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing My dear Re-deem-er's praise,
2. Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, That bids our sor - rows cease;
3. Christ breaks the power of reign - ing sin, And sets the pris - oner free;
4. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, As - sist me to pro - claim,

The glo - ries of my God and King, The tri - umphs of God's grace!
'Tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'Tis life, and health, and peace.
Christ's blood can make the sin - ful clean, Christ's blood a - vailed for me.
To spread through all the earth a - broad The hon - ors of Thy name.

CONFESSION

God, our Deliverer,
we confess that we are too reluctant
to speak and to live according to your truth.
We grow comfortable with the way things are,
passively condoning injustice.
We see ourselves as “insiders,”
excluding those we consider “outsiders.”
We find it easier to pluck up and pull down,
to destroy and overthrow, than to build and to plant.
Forgive us, O God, for being timid disciples.
Empty us of fear and shame,
and fill us with love that is humble, patient and kind.
We pray this in the name of the One
who humbled himself, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

(A moment for silent reflection is observed.)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God’s word does not come to condemn us,
but to make us wise,
reviving our souls and rejoicing our hearts.
God’s Word has been fulfilled among us in Christ Jesus,
who sets us free to live in accord with God’s forgiveness.

RESPONSE TO OUR FORGIVENESS

We Are Marching in the Light of God

South African

first time, Zulu

Siyahamba ekukanyen' kwenkos'.

second time, English

We are marching in the light of God.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit,
as the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah in his time,
bring this word now to us.
Touch our mouths and our hearts with your word today,
that we may build on it
in our lives, in the church, and in your world. **Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Laurel Oldach, *liturgist*

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,
“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”
Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.”
But the Lord said to me,
“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’;
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.
Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the Lord.”
Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me,
“Now I have put my words in your mouth.
See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”

SOLO

The Spirit of the Lord God is Upon Me

Christian Humcke

John McLucas, *baritone*
Jason Kissel, *organ*

The Spirit of the Lord God is Upon Me is given its premier in this video, and dedicated by the composer to John McLucas. Mr. Humcke is a former member of the Sanctuary Choir at First & Franklin Presbyterian Church.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:14-30

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." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

SERMON

Risking the Cliff

Rev. Dr. Lisa Rzepka, preacher

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Let Us Build a House

TWO OAKS



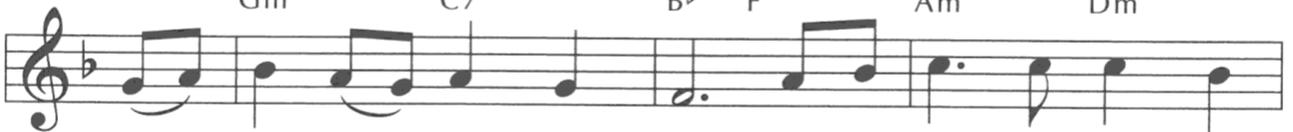
1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
 F C F Dm7 Gm C



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
 strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
 wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
 wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
 vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
 Gm C7 Bb F Am Dm



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
 Gm C F Bb



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D) ((A7))
 Am Gm F Gm C7 F B^b F (C7)

all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please use the chat forum to enter your prayers and we will share those as a part of our communal worship.

O God, in your mercy.

Hear our prayers.

PURPLE RIBBON LIST

01/11/2021	Marvin Dessaure	34	Male	Unknown
01/11/2021	Curtis Berry	20	Male	Black

Each ribbon represents a life lost to homicide in Baltimore City. We name them each week and hang a purple ribbon on the outside of Park Ave. to remind us to pray for the perpetrators of these acts of violence, and to remind us of our calling to challenge the systemic injustices of our time.

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.**

OFFERTORY

See invitation to give in the Chat Box on Zoom and Facebook Live.

If you wish to give via Paypal, you will need to open a new tab on your browser.

If you need assistance please request help from either of our E-Ushers:

Allie Pyan alexandra.pyan@gmail.com or Sabrina Schlosser Schumann ssschuma@gmail.com

If you would like to give your offering by mail, please send to the church office at First & Franklin Presbyterian Church, 210 West Madison Street, Baltimore MD 21201. Offerings will be processed weekly.

AT THE OFFERTORY

Meditation on the Hymn Tune *Houston*

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Wayne L. Wold

(b. 1954)

DOXOLOGY 591

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

OLD HUNDREDTH

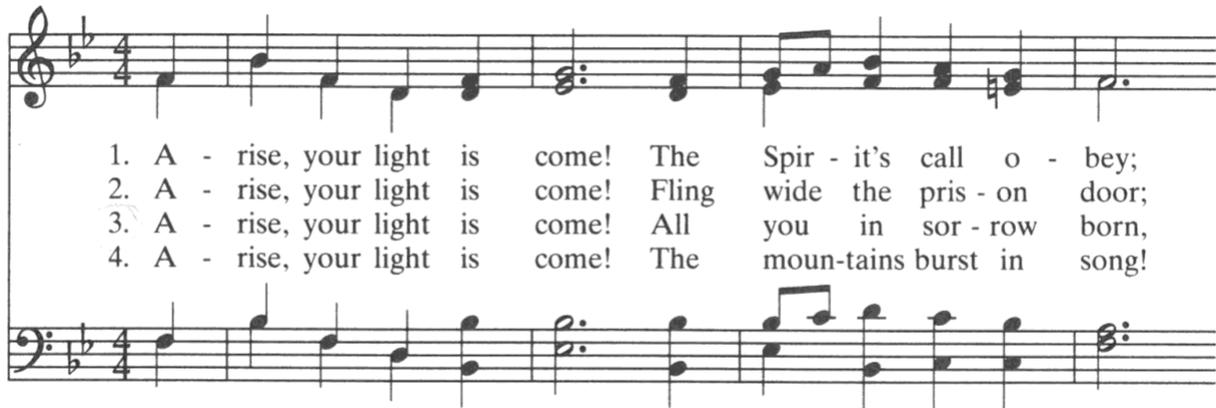
PRAYER OF DEDICATION

You are our inspiration, Lord,
and sometimes we recognize it,
at other times we reject it, but you never give up on us.
May we recognize your challenge to us all this day
as in that synagogue in Nazareth,
and may we commit ourselves to your Way.
Use us and what we bring before you
to serve the vision and realm you inaugurate,
that we might be good and faithful in all we are and all we do. Amen.

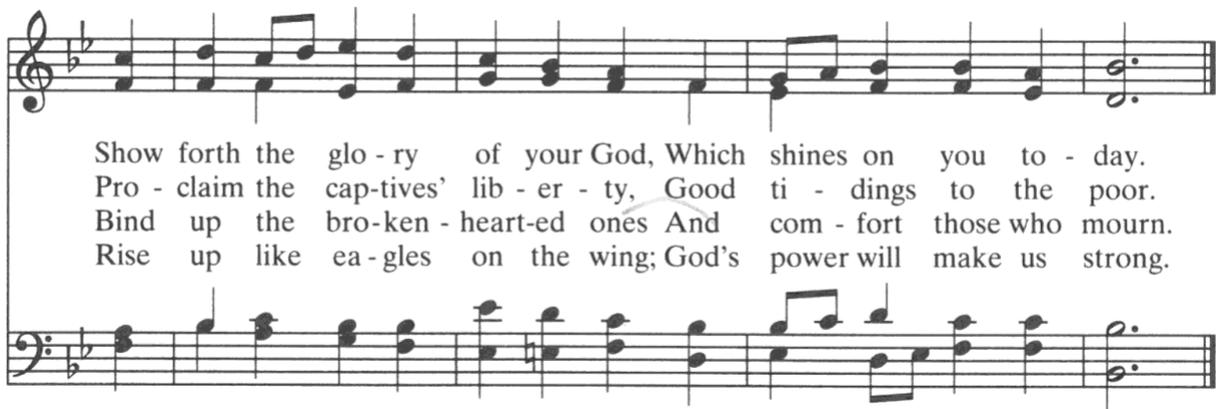
SENDING HYMN 411

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

FESTAL SONG



1. A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2. A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3. A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
4. A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!



Show forth the glo - ry of your God, Which shines on you to - day.
Pro - claim the cap-tives' lib - er - ty, Good ti - dings to the poor.
Bind up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones And com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

God is a refuge, but never an escape, therefore:
Go this day into a world
where things are being pulled down and overthrown,
where things are being built and planted.
Go this day open to the surprise of what God is doing
and where and with whom God is at work!
Go this day with the love of God made visible in you.

Now may the grace of God,
the love of Christ,
and the friendship of the Holy Spirit go with us all.

POSTLUDE

Chant de joie (Song of Joy)

Jean Langlais
(1907-1991)

ONLINE FELLOWSHIP

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Dr. Lisa Rzepka, *preacher*

Laurel Oldach, *liturgist*

Jason Kissel, *organist*

Marianne Shick, *soprano*

John McLucas, *baritone*

~ ~ ~

STAFF

Jason Kissel, DMA, *Minister of Music & Organist*

Taylor Brooks, *tech support*

George Meagher, *Sexton*

Wanda Morgan, *Office Administrator/Wedding Coordinator*

The church office is open 8am-4pm Monday-Friday

Office: 410-728-5545 Fax: 410-728-0722

information@firstfranklin.org

firstfranklin.org

January PayPal

\$ 1,405.00

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Because of the recent upsurge in COVID cases, and in order to provide a consistent schedule, Session has decided to suspend worship in the sanctuary for the rest of January. Virtual worship will continue using the Zoom and Facebook platforms. While we regret this step back from in-person worship, we believe it is necessary to protect the health of our guest preachers, others facilitating worship, and worshippers. Session will review this decision by the end of January.

REV. DR. LISA RZEPKA, GUEST PREACHER

The Rev. Lisa Rzepka moved from Rochester, NY to the Baltimore area 23 years ago with her husband and three sons. Transitioning from the corporate world, where she was employed by Xerox Corporation for 16 years, she became the Director of Christian Education at Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian church. While serving at Brown Memorial, Lisa attended Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. Ordained in 2003, she became the Associate Pastor for Education at Providence Presbyterian Church in Fairfax, Va. In 2008, she was called as the solo pastor of John Calvin Presbyterian Church in Annandale, VA. During her tenure at JCPC, Lisa earned her Doctor of Ministry from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. Family priorities in 2018 prompted a move to transitional/interim ministry for Lisa. She served First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis as head of staff for 22 months. Lisa enjoys activities that involve being outdoors; tennis, biking, hiking, gardening and chasing her grandson around playgrounds.

IN NEED OF PASTORAL ASSISTANCE?

With our current Pastor vacancy, if you need pastoral assistance, please call the church office (410) 728-5545 (Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm) and we will direct your concern to an Associate Pastor for follow up.

LITURGISTS NEEDED!

We will be transitioning back to the use of lay liturgists for Sunday Worship. Liturgists can serve virtually via Zoom as long as they have a stable internet connection.

Open Dates: Feb. 28; March 7, 14, 21, 28.

Please contact the church office if you are willing to serve. Thank you for considering it.

SESSION UPDATE

At its meeting on December 22nd, Session took three actions of importance. First, because of the continuing surge in COVID cases, worship will continue to be held virtually through January. Please join us using Zoom or Facebook each week.

Secondly, an Interim Pastor Search Committee has been formed, They expect to receive a list of possible candidates from the Presbytery in early January and hope to begin interviews shortly thereafter. The Interim Pastor will lead the church as we go through the process of self-assessment and searching for our next installed minister.

Finally, Session has drafted a reorganized committee structure. It calls for a slightly revised assignment of tasks and results in a smaller number of committees. The plan is now being reviewed by the affected committees. The proposal will assign at least two elders to each committee but, as with any such plan, will require volunteers from the congregation to serve with the elders in order to get work done. Look for more information on the new committee structure and how you can volunteer in the near future.

THEOLOGY ON TAP | Thursday, January 28, 2021 | 7-9 pm

Join us for a study through Peter Enn's book, "*How the Bible Actually Works*".

"Controversial evangelical Bible scholar, popular blogger and podcast host of The Bible for Normal People, and author of *The Bible Tells Me So* and *The Sin of Certainty* explains that the Bible is not an instruction manual or rule book but a powerful learning tool that nurtures our spiritual growth by refusing to provide us with easy answers but instead forces us to acquire wisdom."

If you are interested in joining this study, please email Sarah Lloyd (saramcgawllloyd17@gmail.com) and let her know that you're interested. The book is available for purchase on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and your local bookstores. If affording the book will be a hurdle, please let us know so we can arrange to help you.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89721303699?pwd=UDhCNURFODRUc3R0UGUySXZ4a2s2dz09>

Meeting ID: 897 2130 3699

Passcode: 219616

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,89721303699# US (Washington D.C)

+16465588656,,89721303699# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 897 2130 3699

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kbQ2mZgTb2>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR OFFERINGS

As we all recognize real concerns for our friends who will experience hardships through this disruption in regular routines, so too, we need to be mindful that your weekly contributions are critical to helping us maintain the financial obligations of the church. Payroll, mortgages, electricity and the rest are needs we must continue to cover, and your continued support of your pledges will be even more important while we are tele-worshiping. In addition to accepting your pledges by mail to the church office, we have recently added a PayPal link to the top of our new website which will allow us to process donations with this link: [**GIVE**](#). Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

FOOD PANTRY AT FIRST & FRANKLIN

Another 15 bags were handed out last week. We want to make sure people understand that they do not have to give large amounts. Buying an extra box of pasta or donating \$10 if that is what works for you is impactful and welcome.

If you have the resources to do so, please consider donating non-perishables (see list below) or financial contributions. Please also consider joining us on Saturdays from about 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We continue to staff a food pantry in Reid Chapel **every** Saturday from 12:00- 2:00 p.m. There is a growing flow of neighbors with whom we are building relationships. We have built connections with residents at Westminster House for whom we drop off additional bags of food for those who cannot make the walk to Reid Chapel.

In each grocery bag we pack food for breakfast, jelly and peanutbutter (a good source of protein) for lunch, the makings for a balanced dinner such as beans and rice, pasta and sauce, canned meat, soup, vegetables, and fruit, and a paper goods. We like to add a little fun food, such as popcorn or cookies, for everyone enjoys a treat.

Contributions of shelf stable foods can be brought to Reid Chapel every Saturday between 12 noon and 2:00 p.m. If shopping is difficult for you, monetary donations earmarked food pantry may be sent to the church and we will shop for you.

We are currently low on: canned milk, spaghetti, canned meats and dry & canned beans

Here is the list of foods we try to provide:

Apple sauce, canned fruit and dried fruit

Rice and beans

Peanut butter and jelly

Cereal or oatmeal and canned or powdered milk

Tuna fish and other canned meats

Spaghetti or pasta and tomato sauce

Soup

Canned vegetables

Popcorn and cookies

Paper towels

Toilet paper

How else can you help? We need volunteers to help collect and distribute food every Saturday. Sabrina Schumann is coordinating the volunteers. You may reach her by email at ssschuma@gmail.com or phone 240-481-6929. You can also help by spreading the word to those you know who are facing food insecurity.

Thank you,
The Peacemaking Committee

THE SPIRE SERIES

Do you know that First & Franklin has a YouTube page? There, you may view performances from the 2020 summer series of mini concerts, all recorded live in First & Franklin's sanctuary. You may also revisit last May's virtual piano marathon concert! Here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2QwYlynh7VYhxAYt-9cm2g>

You can also view the August Spire Series recordings on Facebook.

MORNING PRAYER | 7:00am

Please join us online: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

Zoom Event Click: [**MORNING PRAYER**](#)

DID YOU MISS A SUNDAY?

Or did you want to re-visit a particular sermon from our congregational life?

Please visit: [Sermons](#)

Prayers from 1/10/2021

Prayers for our neighbors in D.C. [Allie]

Prayers for listening to each other and willingness to be in conversation – individually and as leaders and in all communities. [Audrey]

Prayers for my friend David who is seeing a return of cancer. [Mike]

Prayers for the Native American community. [Marla]

Blessings on Rev. Dottie and all our guest preachers who are faithfully leading us each week.

Prayers for Daniel and Margaret Clack, both of whom are dealing with intense Covid. [Jack]

Prayers for the Mt. Vernon Community and those working the food pantry where we gave away 19 bags on Saturday to those in need. [Randy]

For all in our church community who are unable to join us each week – may we all reach out to those we do not see each week. [Beth]

For our sister church in Cuba. [Betty]

Prayers of thanks for our entire staff – Wanda, George, Taylor, Jason, Deborah and all our volunteers who help to keep the church moving forward. [Beth]

Prayers from 1/3/2021

Prayers for those starting new year's resolutions that they don't get frustrated and forget why God loves them, not for their waistline or their bank account. [Mike]

Prayers of comfort and peace for Dana Durrett and family, upon the passing of her husband, Gary. [Paul]

A joy that Becca's Dad and sister have both received the Covid vaccine. [Becca]

Prayers for my cousin Sam who is coping with serious depression right now. [Charley]

Prayers for the family and friends of Sam Althans, who died suddenly at the age of 26. May his family and girlfriends Emily come together and heal. [Sarah]

For Betty's Mom who has fallen again and is in isolation due to the Covid situation at her facility. [Betty]

Gratitude at the recovery of Jeanette Anders who is home from the hospital. [Audrey]

Gratitude that the Huse family is recovering from Covid. [Sabrina]

Praying the+ doctors can help me with fatigue and depression. [Marla]

Prayers for the Mt. Vernon Community and those working the food pantry where we gave away 13 bags on Saturday to those in need. [Randy]

For our sister church in Cuba. [Betty]

For Dorothy Janzen as she recovers from shingles. [Betty]

Prayers for our neighbor, Chris, who is in St. Joe's with Covid. [Beth]

Prayers for our gifted and courageous young Mayer, Brandon Scott, as he takes on all the challenges facing our beloved city. [John]

Prayers that as we commune in our separate spaces we can rejoice in the New Year and be a strength with faith in our endeavors to be a healing group to those around us. [Maggy]

Please pray for Jim Peters and his family as they mourn the passing of Jim's father Lydon, who died on 01/02 at the age of 93 from natural causes. [Rod]

Please pray for Paula Crews sister who fell and broke her hip.

Prayers of thanks for our entire staff – Wanda, George, Taylor, Jason, Deborah and all our volunteers who help to keep the church moving forward. [Beth]