

How a Worship Service is Planned

Community Presbyterian Church
October 15, 2026

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4th Sunday After Epiphany

Year A

Micah 6:1-8

Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon Title:

SERMON SUMMERY

It's no coincidence the Revised Common Lectionary paired the Matthew and the Micah scriptures in the same. Micah was a prophet that Jesus would have studied extensively. As Jesus spoke to the people, in what is now called "the sermon on the mount," he knew Micah's succinct response when the people asked what religious actions God required of them: Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly. Many of the people would have known Micah's teachings as well, but here Jesus breaks it down for the peanut gallery: Blessed are (or in the CEB "Happy are) those who live in these ways and do these things... What does it me to claim the name of "Christian?" - not platitudes nor religious theatrics but actions that are Just, Merciful, and Humble.



The Presbyterian Hymnal Online

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Lectionary

[Year A](#)[Year B](#)[Year C](#)

4th Sunday After Epiphany 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

630 [Fairest Lord Jesus](#)

754 [Help Us Accept Each Other](#)

213 [In the Cross of Christ I Glory](#)

372 [O for a World](#)

223 [When I Survey the Wondrous Cross](#)

224 [When I Survey the Wondrous Cross](#)

Matthew 5:1-12

172 [Blest Are They](#)

643 [Now Thank We All Our God](#)

Micah 6:1-8

749 [Come! Live in the Light!](#)

739 [O for a Closer Walk with God](#)

418 [Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling](#)

70 [What Does the Lord Require of You?](#)

Psalms 15

700 [I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me](#)

364 [Lift Up the Gates Eternal](#)

419 [Lord, Who May Dwell within Your House](#)

First Lines/ Common Titles	Topical	Lectionary	Scriptural	Psalms	Authors/ Sources	Metrical	Alphabetical Index of Tunes	Copyright
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Scriptural

Old Testament

New Testament

Matthew 5

- 5:1-12
 - 172 Blest Are They
 - 731 Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm
 - 823 Shall Tribulation or Distress

Micah 6

- 6:6-8
 - 70 What Does the Lord Require of You?
- 6:8
 - 739 O for a Closer Walk with God
 - 742 We Will Walk with God
 - 749 Come! Live in the Light!
 - 769 For Everyone Born

Doxology: The final stanza of the following:

15 All creatures of our God and King
 675 All praise to thee, my God
 349 Christ is made the sure foundation
 2 Come, thou almighty King
 326 For all the saints
 4 Holy God, we praise thy name
 1 Holy, holy, holy
 634 Now thank we all our God
 108 Of the Father's love begotten
 804 Rejoice, ye pure in heart
 225 Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle
 117/118. While shepherds watched

Worship for the Lord's Day

4th Sunday After Epiphany

Year A

9:30 am

Prelude

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Words of Welcome

***Opening Words**

OPTION A

One: Jesus taught: Blessed are the poor in spirit.
He said that the realm of God is theirs.

**All: We read that those who mourn are blessed.
Jesus said they will be comforted.**

One: The meek will inherit the earth.

**All: The merciful will obtain mercy.
All who hunger and thirst for rich treasures are blessed;
Jesus said they will be filled.**

One: Blessed are the pure in heart and the peacemakers;
They are God's children and will see God.

**All: Those persecuted and falsely accused are blessed.
Even in the face of evil, we will rejoice.**

Bayler, Lavon (2002), *Taught By Love: Worship Resources for Year A*. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press. (page 38)

OPTION B

One: People of God, who do you come to worship?

All: We come to worship the one true God.

One: How will you worship?

All: Not with words alone, but by living lives of justice and love.

One: Come, you who belong to God.

Come, you who are foolish in the eyes of the world.

All: Come and abide in God's tent and in God's heart, now and forever.

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4636/worship-elements-january-29-2023>

***Hymn**

Call to Confession

OPTION A

One: God knows the intent of our hearts as we come to this time of repentance. Are we intent on doing justice? Do we love mercy? Are we ready to walk humbly with our Creator? If so, God is ready to hear our prayers.

Bayler, Lavon (2002), *Taught By Love: Worship Resources for Year A*. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press. (page 38)

OPTION B

One: Jesus said: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Book of Common Worship. (2018) Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press. (page 385-386)

Prayer of Confession

OPTION A

All: O God, we confess that we have accepted the world's wisdom as our guide. We have been impressed by the power of weapons and the importance of high positions. We measure worth by the number of possessions we command. We have been unkind in our speech and uncaring in our deeds. We have doubted the power of the cross to save. Turn us around, holy God, that we might be blessed. Amen.

Bayler, Lavon (2002), *Taught By Love: Worship Resources for Year A*. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press. (page 38)

OPTION B

All: Eternal God, in every age you have raised up men and women to live and die in faith. We confess that we are indifferent to your will. You call us to proclaim your name, but we are silent. You call us to do what is just, but we remain idle. You call us to live faithfully, but we are afraid. In your mercy, forgive us. Give us courage to follow in your way, that joined with those from ages past, who have served you with faith, hope, and love, we may inherit the kingdom you promised in Jesus Christ.

Book of Common Worship. (2018) Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press. (page 385-386)

Assurance of God's Grace

OPTION A

One: God destroys the wisdom of those who think themselves wise. God chooses the weak and foolish to shame those who think themselves strong and all-knowing. The God who forgives calls us to a life of kindness in word and deed, mercy toward both friend and foe, and justice in all our dealings. Thank God for setting before us standards that surpass our highest aspirations, along with the possibility for joyous fulfillment.

Bayler, Lavon (2002), *Taught By Love: Worship Resources for Year A*. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press. (page 39)

OPTION B

One: Jesus said: Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Amen.**

Book of Common Worship. (2018) Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press. (page 385-386)

***Sung Response 582** *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)

***Sung Response 581** *Glory be to the Father*

GLORIA PATRI (Creatorex)

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: As a sign of God's forgiveness and love for us, let us share the peace with one another. The Peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

***Sung Response**

Time with Youngest Children

Prayer for Inspiration

Scripture Reading

Micah 6:1-8 CEB

Hear what the Lord is saying: Arise, lay out the lawsuit before the mountains; let the hills hear your voice! ²Hear, mountains, the lawsuit of the Lord! Hear, eternal foundations of the earth! The Lord has a lawsuit against his people; with Israel he will argue. ³“My people, what did I ever do to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴I brought you up out of the land of Egypt; I redeemed you from the house of slavery. I sent Moses, Aaron, and Miriam before you. ⁵My people, remember what Moab's King Balak had planned, and how Balaam, Beor's son, answered him! Remember everything from Shittim to Gilgal, that you might learn to recognize the righteous acts of the Lord!”

What does the Lord require? ⁶With what should I approach the Lord and bow down before God on high? Should I come before him with entirely burned offerings, with year-old calves? ⁷Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with many torrents of oil? Should I give my oldest child for my crime; the fruit of my body for the sin of my spirit? ⁸He has told you, human one, what is good and what the Lord requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God.

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word! This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:1-12 CEB

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up a mountain. He sat down and his disciples came to him. ²He taught them, saying:

³Happy are people who are hopeless, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

⁴Happy are people who grieve, because they will be made glad.

⁵Happy are people who are humble, because they will inherit the earth.

⁶Happy are people who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, because they will be fed until they are full.

⁷Happy are people who show mercy, because they will receive mercy.

⁸Happy are people who have pure hearts, because they will see God.

⁹Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God's children.

¹⁰Happy are people whose lives are harassed because they are righteous, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

¹¹Happy are you when people insult you and harass you and speak all kinds of bad and false things about you, all because of me.

¹²Be full of joy and be glad, because you have a great reward in heaven. In the same way, people harassed the prophets who came before you.

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word! This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Act Justly, Walk Humbly, Love Mercy

*Hymn

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation to Offering

God is neither pleased with burnt offerings nor impressed by the size of our gifts. God wants our full commitment and devotion, of which our giving in these moments is only a symbol. God calls us to lives of mercy and peacemaking, for which our offering can make a beginning.

Bayler, Lavon (2002), *Taught By Love: Worship Resources for Year A*. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press. (page 39)

Offertory

***Doxology** words 607, tune 606 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*Prayer of Dedication

We devote ourselves and these tokens of our thankfulness toward the realization of your reign among us, holy God. We pray for purity of heart as we hunger and thirst for righteousness and as we seek to be peacemakers. We rejoice in this opportunity to share in the extension of your realm. Bless us and our offering, we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Bayler, Lavon (2002), *Taught By Love: Worship Resources for Year A*. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press. (page 39)

Church Tidings

Joys and Concerns

God's People Pray / The Lord's Prayer

*Hymn

*Charge and Blessing

OPTION A

As you prepare to leave this place,
hear now God's invitation to a life of Christian discipleship.
God has shown you what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

The Worship Sourcebook. (2004) Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House. (page 352)

OPTION B

Bless to us O God the earth beneath our feet.
Bless to us O God the paths on which we go.
Bless to us O God the people whom we meet.
O God of all bless to us our lives.

Newell, Philip J. (1997) *The Iona Community*: Wild Good Publications. (page 52)

Postlude

RESOURCES

Below are liturgies from multiple resources written for this Lectionary reading.

Bayler, Lavon (2002), *Taught By Love: Worship Resources for Year A*. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press. (page 38)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus taught: Blessed are the poor in spirit.

He said that the realm of God is theirs.

We read that those who mourn are blessed.

Jesus said they will be comforted.

The meek will inherit the earth.

The merciful will obtain mercy.

All who hunger and thirst for rich treasures are blessed; Jesus said they will be filled.

Blessed are the pure in heart and the peacemakers;

They are God's children and will see God.

Those persecuted and falsely accused are blessed.

Even in the face of evil, we will rejoice.

INVOCATION

Let the mountains hear our voices raised in prayer and praise, wise and holy God. We gather in this sacred place to honor and adore you. We come humbly, claiming the cross of Jesus Christ as our sign. We give thanks that you lift up the weak and lowly, defy the world's foolishness, and invite us to share in life at its fullest and best as disciples of Jesus. We want to accept your invitation. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God knows the intent of our hearts as we come to this time of repentance. Are we intent on doing justice? Do we love mercy? Are we ready to walk humbly with our Creator? If so, God is ready to hear our prayers.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we confess that we have accepted the world's wisdom as our guide. We have been impressed by the power of weapons and the importance of high positions. We measure worth by the number of possessions we command. We have been unkind in our speech and uncaring in our deeds. We have doubted the power of the cross to save. Turn us around, holy God, that we might be blessed. Amen.

Bayler, Lavon (2002), *Taught By Love: Worship Resources for Year A*. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press. (page 39)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God destroys the wisdom of those who think themselves wise. God chooses the weak and foolish to shame those who think themselves strong and all-knowing.

The God who forgives calls us to a life of kindness in word and deed, mercy toward both friend and foe, and justice in all our dealings. Thank God for setting before us standards that surpass our highest aspirations, along with the possibility for joyous fulfillment.

COLLECT

All-wise God, whose saving power has come to us in Jesus Christ, grant that we may hear and speak the truth and do what is right so our lives may be a blessing to the world and lead others to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Amen.

OFFERTORY INVITATION

God is neither pleased with burnt offerings nor impressed by the size of our gifts.

God wants our full commitment and devotion, of which our giving in these moments is only a symbol.

God calls us to lives of mercy and peacemaking, for which our offering can make a beginning.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

We devote ourselves and these tokens of our thankfulness toward the realization of your reign among us, holy God. We pray for purity of heart as we hunger and thirst for righteousness and as we seek to be peacemakers. We rejoice in this opportunity to share in the extension of your realm. Bless us and our offering, we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Walk blamelessly before God and do what is right.

Speak the truth to all, from your heart.

We will honor and fear God each day.

May our words and deeds resist all evil.

Consider your call and live righteously.

Know that God chooses you for a blessing.

We delight in seeking to do God's will.

We are awed that God appoints and blesses us.

Rejoice and be glad, for God offers rich rewards.

From God you receive wisdom and true power.

We are amazed at the responsibility God gives us.

We rejoice in the blessings God promises. Amen.

Book of Common Worship. (2018) Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (page 221)

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom by giving your kingdom to the lowly and pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice and perseverance in striving for peace, that by our words and deeds the world may see the promise of your kingdom, revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION (page 385-386)

Jesus said: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God,
in every age you have raised up men and women to live and die in faith.
We confess that we are indifferent to your will.
You call us to proclaim your name, but we are silent.
You call us to do what is just,
but we remain idle.
You call us to live faithfully, but we are afraid.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Give us courage to follow in your way,
that joined with those from ages past,
who have served you with faith, hope, and love,
we may inherit the kingdom you promised in Jesus Christ.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

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As you prepare to leave this place,
hear now God's invitation to a life of Christian discipleship.
God has shown you what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Duck, Dr. Ruth C., (1990) *Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*. Cleveland, OH: United Church Press. (page 34) - FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY (YEAR A)

We have come before you, God,
like those who gathered around Jesus
on a faraway hill, long ago,
to find new meaning for our lives.
We want our lives to sound in harmony
with your song of love.
We want to live with integrity and wisdom,
with a spirit of truth.
Do not disappoint us, God,
but allow us to know your presence
and hear your voice.
Come among us, holy God,
for we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.