

# Worship Service - *“Authority: Power and Love”*

Guest Preacher - Rev. Carol Mason

28th January, 2024 - 4th Sunday in Epiphany, Year B

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 NRSV / Mark 1:21-28 NRSV

## Prelude

Played by church musician Annie Center

## Opening Music (video)

["Again I Say Rejoice"](#)

Israel Houghton

AUTHORS Aaron Lindsey, Israel Houghton CCLI SONG #4302823 COPYRIGHTS  
2004 Integrity's Praise! Music (Admin. by Integrity Music)  
Sound Of The New Breed (Admin. by Integrity Music)

## Welcome / Announcements

I'm glad to welcome you to worship with Olympic View Community Church.  
We seek to welcome all of God's children to join us in bearing witness to the  
radically transforming power of God's love.

## Pass the Peace

Opening Hymn      *Come We That Love the Lord*      **14**

## Call to Worship

One: We gather to worship on this, the Lord's Day.

**All: What will God accomplish among us in this time?**

One: We have come together for Sabbath rest and renewal.

**All: What will God accomplish among us in this place?**

One: We are here to offer our praise and thanksgiving.

**All: What will God accomplish among us in our hearts?**

One: Confident of God's work among us at all times and in all places, let us  
worship God.

## Invocation

Almighty and Amazing God, we come before You in awe and wonder that You have  
made another day. You have made the heavens and the earth and the vast  
universe that surrounds us, and You made each of us in Your image. We can't  
begin to imagine everything that You have done for us and all that You do in the  
universe. Nonetheless, we set aside this time and space to give You praise, to  
bring our prayers before You, and to share together in thanksgiving and love in  
this time of worship. Guide our hearts and minds to follow You in all Your ways.  
Amen.

## Epistle Reading      1 Corinthians 8:1-13 NRSVA

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that ‘all of us possess knowledge.’ Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge;

but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that ‘no idol in the world really exists’, and that ‘there is no God but one.’

Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—

yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.

‘Food will not bring us close to God.’ We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do.

But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling-block to the weak.

For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols?

So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed.

But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.

Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall

## A Time of Prayer

### Sharing Joys and Concerns

**Today we come together as a community to share together our joys and concerns, and lift them to God in prayer.**

**Pastoral Prayer**      Prayer by pastor  
**Hymn**                      *Healer of our every Ill*                      **377**  
**Gospel Reading**      **Mark 1:21-28 NRSVA**

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.

They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.'

But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!'

And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him.

They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, 'What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He[a] commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.'

At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

### **Message - "*Authority: Power and Love*"**

*Guest Preacher - Rev. Carol Mason*

### **Call to Serve:**

**A Time for Reflection**                      Played by church musician Annie Center

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Let us pray: We worship with our whole hearts, and give with our whole hearts, remembering your covenant with us, O God. As we share these gifts, may they be for the work of faithful justice and gracious mercy through your church and in your world. Amen.

**Hymn**                      *Strangers No More*                      **322**

## **Celebration of Membership**

Welcoming New Member Gretchen Zience

**All: We welcome you with joy and affection into this household of faith. We pledge to you our help, our prayers, our concern, that we may all increase in the knowledge and love of God. We trust God for strength to follow with you in Christ's way, keeping together the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Amen**

## **Benediction**

## **Postlude**

played by church musician Annie Center