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PRELUDE *The Light of Epiphany Shines Down on Us* (Martin)

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Gather us in, the brokenhearted and the joyful.

All people: Gather us in, the weak and the strong.

ALL PEOPLE SING REFRAIN: Eagle's Wings¹

Refrain A7 D Em

And he will raise you up on ea - gle's wings, bear you on the

breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and

hold you in the palm of his hand.

Pastor: Gather us in, the fearful and the brave.

All people: Gather us in, the young and the old.

ALL PEOPLE SING REFRAIN: Eagle's Wings (Above)

Pastor: Gather us in, to sing of God's works.

All people: Gather us in, to praise Jesus Christ.

ALL PEOPLE SING REFRAIN: Eagle's Wings (Above)

Pastor: Gather us in, to worship and wonder.

All people: Gather us in, to know of God's love.

ALL PEOPLE SING REFRAIN: Eagle's Wings (Above)

¹ Joncas, Michael. The words of "On Eagle's Wings" are based on Psalm 91, Book of Exodus 19, and Gospel of Matthew 13. Joncas wrote the piece in either 1976 or 1979, after he and his friend, Douglas Hall, returned from a meal to learn that Hall's father had died of a heart attack. It was recorded in 1979, with Douglas Hall as producer, published by North American Liturgy Resources and later purchased by New Dawn Music, a subsidiary of Oregon Catholic Press.

OPENING PRAYER²

Pastor: God of all power, you are the One who called this world into being and we acknowledge that you have no equal in the extent of your power. Yet, you want to share your power—your strength—with those who are powerless; you ache to heal the brokenhearted and to bind up the wounds of the lost and rejected folk of this world. Such radical love leaves us speechless, but you gave it human form and shape in the person of Jesus, in whom your promises of healing and empowerment were fulfilled. We give you thanks and praise for blessing our lives in this way, and we pray that in Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we too can become radical lovers of the powerless, and passionate bearers of hope to those whose lives are filled with despair and hopelessness. Bless our service and praise and multiply the generous giving of our time, talent, and money to fulfill your ministries of healing. May this time of worship be a true expression of our desire to praise and glorify you, O God, for the many ways in which you bless us, and may our lives reveal our gratitude in all we think, and do, and say; we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Isaiah 40:21-31 (New International Version)

Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood since the earth was founded?

²² He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth,
and its people are like grasshoppers.

He stretches out the heavens like a canopy,
and spreads them out like a tent to live in.

²³ He brings princes to naught
and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.

²⁴ No sooner are they planted,
no sooner are they sown,
no sooner do they take root in the ground,
than he blows on them and they wither,
and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.

²⁵ “To whom will you compare me?
Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One.

²⁶ Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens:
Who created all these?
He who brings out the starry host one by one
and calls forth each of them by name.
Because of his great power and mighty strength,
not one of them is missing.

²⁷ Why do you complain, Jacob?
Why do you say, Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD;
my cause is disregarded by my God”?

²⁸ Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,

² Laidlow, Moira. Contributor to Liturgies Online. < <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/01/prayer-of-praise-epiphany-5b.html> >

the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.

²⁹ He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.

³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;

³¹ but those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

NEW TESTAMENT READING - Mark 1:29-39 (The Message, translation)

²⁹ Jesus and his disciples, including James and John, left the synagogue and went straight to the home of Simon and Andrew. ³⁰ Simon's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a fever, and as soon as Jesus arrived, he was told about her. ³¹ He went to her, took her by the hand, and helped her up. The fever left her, and she began to wait on them.

³² After the sun had set and evening had come, people brought to Jesus all the sick and those who had demons. ³³ All the people of the town gathered in front of the house. ³⁴ Jesus healed many who were sick with all kinds of diseases and drove out many demons. He would not let the demons say anything, because they knew who he was.

³⁵ Very early the next morning, long before daylight, Jesus got up and left the house. He went out of town to a lonely place, where he prayed. ³⁶ But Simon and his companions went out searching for him, ³⁷ and when they found him, they said, "Everyone is looking for you."

³⁸ But Jesus answered, "We must go on to the other villages around here. I have to preach in them also, because that is why I came."

³⁹ So he traveled all over Galilee, preaching in the synagogues and driving out demons.

SERMON & PRAYER **THE LORD'S PRAYER³**

Rev. Laura Bair

All: 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.

³ McCallister, Rev. Eleanor. This prayer (which I've greatly adapted) was originally posted on the Church of Scotland's "Starters for Sunday" website, but was reposted to < <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/01/prayer-of-intercession-february-5-2012.html> >

HYMN

*Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*⁴
 (Sing ONLY, verses: 1, 3, 6 and 7)

1. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
 4. A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone;
 5. The bus - y tribes of flesh and blood, with all their lives and cares,

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 • from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 are car - ried down - ward by your flood, and lost in fol - l'wing years.

6. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
 bears all its sons away;
 they fly forgotten, as a dream
 dies at the op'ning day.

7. O God, our help in ages past,
 our hope for years to come;
 O be our guard while troubles last,
 and our eternal home.

From Psalm 90
 Isaac Watts, 1719
 Alt. 1990; mod.

ST. ANNE C.M.
 Attr. to William Croft, 1678-1727
 Tate and Brady, *Supplement to the New Version*, 1708

BENEDICTION⁵

Pastor: Beloved people of God, we are being sent into a world in need of healing. We have been given all that we need to be God's messengers of peace. Go now into the world, rejoicing in God's presence with you.

All people: *We will share the news of peace and hope with all we meet. Amen.*

POSTLUDE

And Soon It Will Begin (Markle)

⁴ Watts, Issac. (Public Domain) Watts wrote this hymn in 1708 that paraphrases Psalm 90. It originally consisted of nine stanzas; however, in present usage the fourth, sixth, and eighth stanzas are commonly omitted to leave a total of six. In 1738, John Wesley in his hymnal, *Psalms and Hymns*, changed the first line of the text from "Our God" to "O God." Both Watts' wording and Wesley's rewording remain in current use.

⁵ Townley, Nancy C. < <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/2322/classic-worship-connection-february-4-2018> >