

**Ephraim Moravian Church**  
**Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany/Communion**  
February 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

**Order of Service**

Welcome & Announcements

**Variations on “Mein Junges Leben hat ein End” (“My Young Life has an End”) – by Jan Pieter Sweelinck**

Watchword for the Week: *‘Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure’* – Psalm 147:5

**Hymn #743 “What A Friend We Have in Jesus (v. 1 & 3)**

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer  
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear.  
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer  
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer  
In his arms he’ll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

Prayers of the Church / The Lord’s Prayer

Congregational Sung Response: (#825)

*Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord  
Incline your ear to us and grant us your peace. Amen.*

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 40: 21-31  
Mark 1: 29-39

Reflection

**“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” – Arranged by Diane Bish**

Meditation

The Lord's Supper

*Breaking of the Bread*

**Hymn #415: "I Come with Joy"**

I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven loved and free  
In awe and wonder to recall his life laid down for me  
His life laid down for me.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends  
The love that made us makes us one, and strangers now are friends  
And strangers now are friends.

*The Cup of Salvation*

**Hymn #418: "Feed Us, Jesus!"**

Feed us, Jesus, we in hunger stand  
Feed us, Jesus, from your timeless hand  
The broken bread of life, the love that we all need  
O feed us, Jesus, feed us!

Lead us, Jesus, gently day by day  
Lead us, Jesus, show us each the way  
To walk your different walk, from fears and hungers freed  
O, lead us, Jesus, lead us!

Pastor: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death  
Congregation: *Until He comes!*

**"Con Moto Maestoso" from Sonata No. 3 – by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy**

Benediction

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## Reflection – by Rev. Cory Kemp

Friendships: a state of mutual trust and support between two people, built by powerful choices that welcome people into our lives, simply because we want to. St. Augustine suggested that choosing people as friends who we believe to be better than us makes us better people. Willa Cather, through the title character of her book, “My Antonia,” simply said this of friendship: “Ain’t it wonderful how much people can mean to each other?”

It is a Biblical concept, this sense of connection to each other, that can be described as deep affection, respect, admiration and love. In describing Jesus, each gospel writer allows a great teacher, prophet and savior to emerge. Today’s scripture reading shows Jesus as healer. We also see him as a friend.

Simon, Andrew, James and John were among the first disciples Jesus called to follow him. Upon arrival at Simon and Andrews’ home, Jesus is immediately told that Simon’s mother-in-law is ill with a fever. Will he help her? Jesus goes to her, holds her hand and helps her up. Sometimes that’s what we need most from a friend. She feels better, well enough to resume her role as hostess for the evening.

Later that evening, after sunset, people begin to show up at the door seeking healing for themselves. Rather than feel imposed upon, having their gathering interrupted, Jesus’ hosts welcome the whole town and support their friend in his work which is now becoming their own work. Sometimes friends have every right to feel inconvenienced, but they often surprise us by not feeling inconvenienced at all.

Very early the next morning, searching out and finding Jesus in a secluded place to which he had gone to pray, the disciples also nudge him along, reminding him that there is even more work to do. People are looking for him. He is needed. Jesus seems reluctant to leave the private moment he had created for himself, but he agrees, saying, “Let us go somewhere else - to the nearby villages - so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.” Sometimes friends are relentless in reminding us who we are and in getting us back on track, even when we might like a little more time to ourselves.

Not only was Jesus a good friend, he also had good friends around to help him. That’s what friends do. We invite each other into our lives. We ask for and give each other help when we need it. And we are all the better for it.

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*Pastor.....Dawn E. Volpe*  
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