

# Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, Year C

**Color:** Green

**Scriptures:** [Scripture linked to NRSV at [Oremus Bible Browser](#)]

[Jeremiah 1:4-10](#) (*The prophet Jeremiah is called by God*)

[Psalm 71:1-6](#) (*For you are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my birth*)

[1 Corinthians 13:1-13](#) (*Faith, hope, and love abide, and the greatest is love*)

[Luke 4:21-30](#) (*Jesus experiences a prophet is not accepted in his hometown*)

**Themes:** Call of God, Faithfulness, Trust, Love, Courage, Jesus' Ministry

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## HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to [Hymnary.org](#), a searchable resource with a wealth of information. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts, and the biblical/thematic references suggest the hymn's association with the scriptures or themes of this service.

<a href="#">The Church of Christ in Every Age</a> (WAREHAM) .....	Luke
<a href="#">Gather Us In</a> (GATHER US IN) .....	1 Corinthians
<a href="#">The Gift of Love</a> (O WALY WALY) .....	1 Corinthians
<a href="#">I Danced in the Morning (Lord of the Dance)</a> (SIMPLE GIFTS) .....	Luke
<a href="#">I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry</a> (WATERLIFE) .....	Psalms
<a href="#">Live in Charity (Ubi Caritas)</a> (UBI CARITAS) .....	1 Corinthians
<a href="#">Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak</a> (CANONBURY) .....	Jeremiah
<a href="#">Love Divine, All Loves Excelling</a> (BEECHER; HYFRYDOL) .....	1 Corinthians
<a href="#">A Mighty Fortress</a> (EIN FESTE BURG) .....	Psalms
<a href="#">Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels</a> (BRIDEGROOM) .....	1 Corinthians
<a href="#">O Splendor of God's Glory Bright</a> (PUER NOBIS) .....	1 Corinthians
<a href="#">Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness</a> (JUBILEE) .....	Luke
<a href="#">Send Me Jesus (Thuma Mina)</a> (THUMA MINA) .....	Jeremiah
<a href="#">Will You Come and Follow Me</a> (KELVINGROVE) .....	Luke

# ANTHEMS

*E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult*

**All Shall Be Amen and Alleluia** – M ..... 1 Corinthians  
Thomas Keesecker  
© 2016, MorningStar Music, 50-8204  
SATB, Piano

**Borning Cry** – M..... Jeremiah, Psalms  
*WATERLIFE*, John Ylvisaker/Sherrri Hansen, arr.  
© 2015, Augsburg Fortress, 978-1-4514-9876-9  
SAB, Piano

**The Greatest of These Is Love** – E ..... 1 Corinthians  
Anna Laura Page  
© 1995, Alfred Publishing, 11471  
SATB, Keyboard, opt. Flute

**He Comes to Us as One Unknown** – M..... Luke  
*REPTON*, C.H.H. Parry/John Ferguson, arr.  
© 2015, Augsburg Fortress, 978-0-8006-5600-3  
SATB, Organ

**How Lovely Are the Messengers** – M ..... Jeremiah  
(from *St. Paul*) Felix Mendelssohn  
Various Publishers, (CPDL #06824)  
SATB, Keyboard

**In You, O Lord, I Will Place My Trust** – M.....Psalms  
Allen Pote, quoting *RUSTINGTON*  
© 2009, MorningStar Music, 50-0014  
SATB, Organ, opt. Brass, Timpani, Congregation

**Love Is Little** (from *Shaker Songs*) – M.. 1 Corinthians  
Shaker Song/Kevin Siegfried, arr.  
© 1999, earthsongs Publications, S-102  
SATB, a cappella

**O God, You Search Me** – E ..... Jeremiah  
Bernadette Farrell/Christopher Walker, arr.  
© 1992, OCP Publications, 12066  
SSAA, Harp (or Piano), C-Instrument

**O Lord, My God, You Are My Refuge** – ME .....Psalms  
J. S. Bach/Hal Hopson, arr.  
© 1988, Hope Publishing, MW 1239  
2-Part Mixed, Keyboard

**The Simple Gift of Love** – M..... 1 Corinthians  
*SIMPLE GIFTS*/Larry Harris, arr.  
© 2008, GIA Publications, G-7087  
2-Part (any), Keyboard

**Stand By Me** – M .....Psalms  
Charles A. Tindley/Jewel Taylor Thompson, arr.  
© 2002, GIA Publications, G-5803  
SATB, Baritone, Soprano, Piano

-- Youth and Children --

**God Is Like a Rock** – E .....Psalms  
Helen Kemp  
© 1986, Choristers Guild, CGA 395  
Unison, Piano

**Not For Tongues of Heaven's Angels** – ME  
..... 1 Corinthians  
Michael Joncas  
© 1985, GIA Publications, G-3158  
SAB, Solos, 2 C-Instruments, opt. Congregation

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## ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

*Not knowing is the mark of faith,  
not wanting the work of hope,  
and not demanding the gift of love.*

— JON M. SWEENEY and MARK BURROWS, *Four Quartets*  
*Meister Eckhart's Book of the Heart: Meditations for the Restless Soul*

*But the faith and the love and the hope are all in the waiting.*

— T.S. ELIOT, *East Coker, Four Quartets*

## RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

(Based upon Jeremiah 1:4-10)

The Lord called the prophet Jeremiah saying,  
**“Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you,  
Before you were born I set you apart.”**

The Lord calls each of us today saying,  
**“Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you,  
Before you were born I set you apart.”**

We have set apart this time and dedicate this  
day to the Lord.

**Let us worship the God who formed us, calls us,  
and knows us.**

— Erin Clarke\*

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### LOVE’S BODY

Lean in! *I was a child, and spoke like one;  
My thought? very like a child’s.  
I gripped my reason with both  
my little fists. It smelled suspiciously of milk.  
Now, as a man, I’ve learned to let it go.  
Just now, we squint to see the Image through  
this latent, bleak obscurity. One day, we’ll see the Image --  
as Himself -- gleaming from each face.  
Just now, I puzzle through a range  
of incoherencies; but on that day,  
the scattered fragments will cohere.  
In all of this, both now and ever,  
faith and hope and love abide, these  
sacred three, but the greatest of these (you surely  
must have guessed) is love.*

— SCOTT CAIRNS, “Love’s Body,” from

*LOVE’S IMMENSITY: MYSTICS ON THE ENDLESS LIFE* (Paraclete Press, 2007)

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### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

**One:** Living Word, from the beginning you spoke Love.

**All:** **Open our ears to hear it echoing in our lives.**

## CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

(Based upon 1 Corinthians 13)

O Perfect Love,

When we are envious and boastful,

**You are patient and kind.**

When we are rude and selfish,

**You are not bitter and You do not keep score.**

When we revel in evil rather than rejoice in truth,

**You protect. You persevere. You never fail.**

O Perfect Love,

When our prophecies cease,

our tongues are stilled,

and our knowledge fades,

**You remain.**

Yes, these three remain: faith, hope, and love.

**And the greatest of these is Love.**

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## BENEDICTION

(Based upon Psalm 71:1-6)

We have taken refuge in the Lord. Delivered by God's righteousness and grace, we have each escaped the grip of that which oppresses and discourages.

Now, be encouraged. God's ear is bent toward you and you will not be put to shame. Go forth from this place secure in your Rock of Refuge, continually praising the One who is your escape and your hope.

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\* Thanks to Erin Clarke for her contributions to this week's liturgy.

Warren Howell, editor