

Sebastopol United Methodist Church  
Sunday, January 31, 2021  
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

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Order of Worship, including Scripture

*Seasonal Theme:*

Jesus grows up, and it begins to dawn on some who and what he is.

*Theme for the day:*

Just as Jesus healed the possessed person in church, he will also heal us.  
We must include all kinds of people in the congregation.

*Call to worship:*

*(please read the **BOLD** text, aloud or silently as you prefer).*

Pastor: Come! Let us give thanks to the Lord with whole hearts.

People: **Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.**

Pastor: Glory be to the One whose wonders are to be remembered.

People: **Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.**

Pastor: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

People: **Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.**

Pastor: The Lord feeds the righteous with truth.

Unison: **Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Come!  
Let us give thanks to God! Amen.**

*Centering & Prayer of Illumination:*

*(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)*

Almighty God, Light of Light, who commands the universe and all that is made,  
your Word is the power that makes whole what is broken. You are the force of  
good, and the provider of peace. Teach, heal, and free us so that we can continue  
sharing your powerful word with others forever. By your Holy Spirit, bring to our  
yearning hearts and minds the truth of your Word that we are about to hear.  
In Jesus's way and truth we pray. Amen.

*Reading from Scripture:*     **Mark 1:21-28**  
*(reading begins on page 3)*

*Message:*     **THE *POWER OF CONFIDENCE!***

*Pastoral Prayer*

*With thanksgiving for God's gifts to us, let us offer ourselves and the fruits of our labor for God's work in the world. Thank you for continuing to send your offerings and pledges by mail.*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:*

*(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)*

Gracious God, we bring gifts to you as symbols of our gratitude and our love. Bless all senders and their gifts, that they may become acts of love and grace, that they may transform the world in gratitude and hope. We pray in Jesus's name and way. Amen.

*Blessing and Benediction:*

Remain in peace with the knowledge that God's power is given to the church, and to you and me, for the sake of the life of the world. Where there is fear, remember the authority of Christ Jesus. Where there is a need for love, give it.

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SCRIPTURE READING for January 31, 2021

*first reading* – **MARK 1:21-28**

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, convulsing him 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 commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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Sebastopol United Methodist Church  
500 North Main Street, Sebastopol CA 95472  
sebumc@sonic.net sebumc.org YouTube channel: Sebastopol UMC

*Thank you for worshipping with us today.*