

# Third Sunday of Epiphany

## Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

January 23, 2022

**Interim Pastor: Rev. Karen Parsh - 814.881.3266 – [pastorparsh@gmail.com](mailto:pastorparsh@gmail.com)**

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*God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.*

**PRELUDE ~ Adult Choir**

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children.**

**We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected.**

**We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves.**

**We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome.**

**Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone.**

**For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation.**

**Amen.**

Rejoice in this good news:

In † Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God. **Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG** *Psalm 19*

VERSE

May the words of my mouth and the med - i - ta - tions of my heart .  
 be pleas - ing to You, pleas - ing to You.  
 May the words of my mouth and the med - i - ta - tions of my heart .  
 be pleas - ing to You, my God.

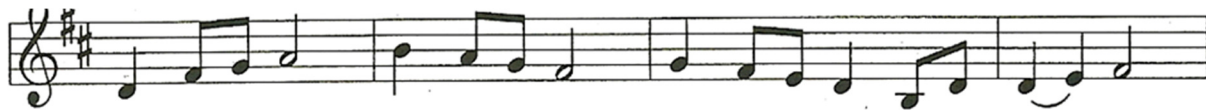
CHORUS

You're my Rock and my Re - deem - er. You're the  
 rea - son that I sing. I de - sire to be a bless -  
 ing in Your eyes. Ev - 'ry hour, ev - 'ry mo -  
 ment, Lord, I want to be Your ser - vant. I de - sire to be a bless -  
 ing in Your eyes. In Your eyes.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And also with you.

HYMN of PRAISE



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



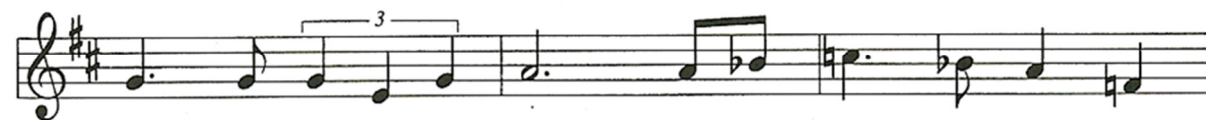
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

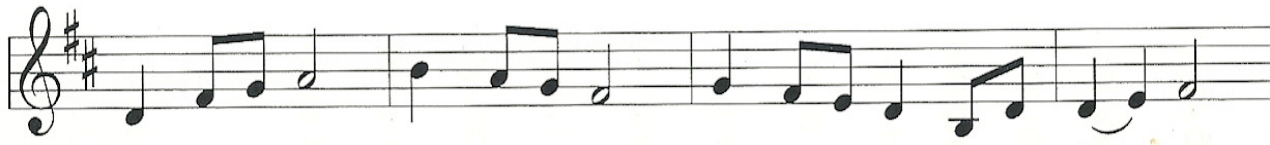


world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

continued



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,



and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



## PRAYER of the DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

*The assembly is seated.*

### FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

<sup>1</sup>All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. <sup>2</sup>Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup>He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. <sup>5</sup>And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>6</sup>Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. <sup>8</sup>So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

<sup>9</sup>And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: 19 Sung Responsively Tone 11



<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,  
and the sky proclaims its | maker's handiwork.

<sup>2</sup>One day tells its tale | to another,  
and one night imparts knowledge | to another.

<sup>3</sup>Although they have no | words or language,  
and their voices | are not heard,

<sup>4</sup>their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends | of the world,  
where God has pitched a tent | for the sun.

<sup>5</sup>It comes forth like a bridegroom out | of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to | run its course.

<sup>6</sup>It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of | it again;  
nothing is hidden from its | burning heat.

<sup>7</sup>The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re- | lives the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom | to the simple.

<sup>8</sup>The statutes of the LORD are just and re- | joice the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light | to the eyes.

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;  
judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

<sup>11</sup>By them also is your servant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup>Who can detect one's own offenses?  
Cleanse me from my secret faults.

<sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;  
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

<sup>14</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,  
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

## SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup>Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup>But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup>If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup>The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup>and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup>whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup>that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

<sup>27</sup>Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup>And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup>Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup>Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31a</sup>But strive for the greater gifts. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

### Gospel Acclamation



## GOSPEL: Luke 4:14-21

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>14</sup>Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup>He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. <sup>16</sup>When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup>and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: <sup>18</sup>“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” <sup>20</sup>And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

### SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY *God of the Poor*

### VERSES



1. Beau - ty for bro - ken - ness, hope for des - pair, Lord, in Your  
2. Shel - ter for fra - gile lives, cures for their ills, work for the  
3. Re - fuge from cruel \_ wars, ha - vens from fear, cit - ies for  
4. Rest for the rav - aged earth, o - ceans and streams, plun - dered and  
5. Light - en our dark - ness, breathe on this flame, un - til Your



suff - 'ring world, this is our prayer. Bread for the chil - dren,  
crafts - men, trade for their skills. Land for the dis - pos - sessed,  
sanc - tu - 'ry, free - doms to share. Peace to the kill - ing fields,  
poi - soned, our fu - ture our dreams. Lord, end our mad - ness,  
jus - tice burns bright - ly a - gain; Un - til the na - tions



jus - tice, joy, peace, sun - rise to sun - set Your king - dom in - crease. \_\_\_\_  
rights for the weak, voic - es to plead the cause of those who can't  
scorched earth to green, Christ for the bit - ter - ness, His cross for the pain. \_\_\_\_  
care - less - ness, greed. Make us con - tent \_ with the things that we  
learn of Your ways, seek Your sal - va - tion and bring You their



— speak. God of the poor, —  
— need.  
— praise.

friend of the weak, give us com - pas - sion we pray, melt our cold  
 hearts, let tears fall like rain. Come change our love from a  
 spark to a flame.

1, 2. D.C.

3. ENDING

### APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made. *A brief silence.*

You reveal yourself to us in the reading of scripture. Fulfill your word through the faithful witness of your church. Send us out to bring your liberating good news to all people. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

All creation proclaims your handiwork. Teach us to love the intricate and beautiful bodies that you have created. Bless tiny insects, enormous whales, and every creature in between. Sustain species at risk of extinction. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

You desire that there be no dissension among us. Where we are divided in our society, nation, or world, come quickly to reunite us into one body. Ease conflict, dispel violence, and bring an end to war. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Anoint with your Spirit all who seek your favor. Grant provision and justice for people living in poverty, people living with disability, those living with pain, or those living under oppression. Especially those we name aloud or in our hearts (*pause*). God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**



Build up the body of Christ in this place. Bless the variety of ministries in this congregation. Empower us to freely welcome and deeply value each person who enters into worship and ministry among us. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In thanksgiving we lift before you the saints for whom the promise of salvation has now been fulfilled. Tend to those who mourn. Bring us together in your everlasting glory. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The assembly greets each other from their pew space, then is seated*

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you,

**O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
 pow-er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your  
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est.

### THANKSGIVING at the TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
 In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
 who preached good news to the poor,  
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection,  
 and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion  
 we may know the unity we share with all your people  
 in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
 Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.  
 Amen

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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 trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
Amen.

## LAMB of GOD



☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*The assembly may be seated.*

**COMMUNION HYMN ELW 483** *Here is Bread*

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever. **Amen**

## SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**SENDING SONG - ELW 384** *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

### BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
Amen

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE

### GOSPEL MESSAGE ~ A New Kind of Justice

All sorts of social cues tell us that “justice” requires vengeance, punishment, pain for pain, or even death, in the case of violent crime. This is what we call “retributive justice.” In our reading today Jesus claims fulfillment of God’s promise as proclaimed by Isaiah; Jesus has come “to bring good news to the poor” and “to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free” (Luke 4:18). This is not a kind of justice that promises peace at the expense of others. Rather, the justice to which Jesus alludes is restorative.

Our culture encourages a retributive mindset. We want offenders to suffer, thinking that it will deter them and others from such actions. It seldom does. The thinking is that retributive violence is required in response to wrongdoing. But this dynamic only reinforces the spiral of violence. Restorative justice, in contrast, is the turning around offered by Jesus when he states that Isaiah’s prophecy has been fulfilled.

Restorative justice is the foundation of salvation. By his coming into the world, Jesus brings with him the salvation that will proclaim liberty to all of us who are captive to something, whether we deserve that liberty in the eyes of society or not. Restorative justice reminds us that love is not about deserving, and that God’s will for you and for me is to be so filled with God’s grace that we are once again made complete, made whole, and restored. Jesus is sending a signal that his coming into the world is an invitation to look at everything we think we know from a different perspective. Everything that Jesus says has been fulfilled is something that restores righteousness to the universe and heals and builds relationship.

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### Parish Notes ~ January 23, 2022

**Please pray for:** Denise Miller, friends & family of Alexis Hugan - great niece of Peggy Kaerberlein, Ruth Hinkson, Don Fuller, Irene Owens, Judi Pacileo, Bishop Lozano, Bob Pacileo, Carrie Fiske, Evelyn Senger, Jack & Marjorie Wonner, and Joyce Hersperger. *Names will remain on our printed lists for four weeks unless renewed.*

**Masks Now Required:** After much thought, consideration and discussion, your council has decided to require that all members and guests wear masks when entering the church. This goes into effect immediately. Proper sanitizing is being done on our end to help to keep you safe. We rely on the experts to guide us in the proper steps to keep safe and healthy. The wearing of masks is at the top



of their lists. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. We pray that we will be able to return to optional mask wearing soon. Respectfully, Analee Cree - Council Secretary

**2021 Contributions Statements** are available in your church mailboxes and were sent by email. If you need your statement sent to you by US mail, please let Pat Wenzel know by email [RNWenzel@gmail.com](mailto:RNWenzel@gmail.com) or phone/text 814-572-5140.

**Winter Schedule for In-Person Worship:** Sunday service is offered @ **8:30a and 10:30a**. The 10:30a service will live-stream on Facebook and then posted to the **AHLC** web page.

**Please check parish notes for Sundays that worship may have a different time.**

**Bible Study:** Continues on Sundays at 9:30a between services.

**Adult Choir:** Wednesday evening @ 6:00p.

**Office Hours:** Until further notice, **the church office will not be manned for specific hours/days.** Voice message will be retrieved and answered. If you need immediate assistance, please contact Pastor Karen at 814-881-3266.

**Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup> is World Hunger 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday:** Abiding Hope council has designated each 5th Sunday as a time for members to contribute financial support to help meet the needs of a hungry world. **Pew envelopes are available in the narthex for cash and check donations.** If using a check, make it payable to Abiding Hope, indicating ELCA World Hunger in the memo line, and place your gift in the offering plate. **Thank you for your generosity.**

**Shoes and Clothes:** We are still collecting gently used shoes and are looking to add gently used clothing to that collection. Donations will be taken to Bethany Outreach. Items (any season) are needed for **men, women and children.** Bethany Outreach is the light in the darkness of many lives who are in need. They can receive these items without charge. Donations can be left in the mail room. Any questions, please contact Analee Cree - 814-397-6168.

**Bishop Lozano:** Prayers are powerful and are requested to be continued along with cards and notes, which can be the medicine one needs on days when it is hardest to keep strong. They'll be forwarded several times. A box is the narthex.

**Today's Altar Flowers are placed by Analee Cree & family:**

*In memory and celebration of LeRoy Doehrel  
Missed by all who knew and loved him - Analee and Family*

Anyone who wishes to **donate flowers** for worship, a sign-up form is on the table in the narthex. The costs of the flowers remain the same as before, **\$20.00 per arrangement.** Please return your request and payment one week ahead of your chosen Sunday.

### CURRENT FUND REPORT

December Income:	\$ 6,503.00	Year to Date Income:	\$129,369.25
December Expenses:	\$11,759.06	Year to Date Expenses:	\$104,146.23
December Difference:	\$-5,256.06	Year to date Difference:	\$ 25,223.02
		Year to Date Budget:	\$145,806

# Annual Congregational Meeting ~

## Today @ 9:30am in-person or via Zoom

Andrew Saska is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Annual Congregational Meeting

Time: Jan 23, 2022 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89314950633?pwd=NTR6MVNhUFhucVdUZ0Jna29oMEQzUT09>

Meeting ID: 893 1495 0633

Passcode: 829557

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,89314950633#,,,,\*829557# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,89314950633#,,,,\*829557# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

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+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 893 1495 0633

Passcode: 829557

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/ker7GfLI67>