

Epiphany 4
January 30, 2022

PRELUDE

INTRODUCTION

The glory of God is often revealed when and where it is least expected. God uses our lips to declare that glory, inexperienced and hesitant though they may be. God uses our love to demonstrate that glory and so urges us to exercise it. God uses Jesus of Nazareth, water and the word, bread and wine, to reveal God's glory where and when God chooses. Take heed, lest the glory of God slip through our midst unnoticed.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Covid updates: Dependent on health restrictions, we hope to return to in-person worship February 20. Please watch for an announcement from the Church Council.
- Annual Meeting: At the Feb 8, Church Council meeting, the AGM date will be reviewed.
- Congregation Ministries and Future: Anyone interested in participating in a Zoom conversation about the congregation's ministries and future are invited to email pastor so you can be included.
- Please continue to safely care for your neighbours.

GATHERING SONG

EvLW # 665 *Rise, Shine, You People!*

1. Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered our human story; God in him is centred. He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, with grace unbounded.
2. See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling; he brings us freedom, light and life and healing. All men and women, who by guilt are driven, now are forgiven.
3. Come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling, your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling. To all the world go out and tell the story of Jesus' glory.
4. Tell how the Father sent the Son to save us. Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us. Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation God's new creation.

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 1:4-10

God calls Jeremiah to be a prophet and consecrates him in the womb. Jeremiah's task is to preach God's word amid the difficult political realities of his time before the Babylonian exile. He is to make God known not only to Judah, but also to the nations.

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you.

Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord." Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth.

See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

PSALM 71:1-6

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame. **In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; incline your ear to me and save me.** Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; you are my crag and my stronghold.

Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor. For you are my hope, O Lord God, my confidence since I was young. **I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's womb you have been my strength; my praise shall be always of you.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Christians in Corinth prided themselves on their spiritual gifts. Paul reminds them that God gives us many gifts through the Holy Spirit, but the purpose behind all of them is love, the kind of love that God showed us in Jesus Christ.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. You shall go to all to whom I send you. Do not be afraid, for I am with you. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Luke 4:21-30

People in Jesus' hometown are initially pleased when he says that God will free the oppressed. Their pleasure turns to rage when he reminds them that God's prophetic mission typically pushes beyond human boundaries so that mercy and healing are extended to those regarded as outsiders.

Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in the synagogue in Nazareth,] "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" And he said, "Truly I tell you; no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Word of God. Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

SERMON

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.

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.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

EvLW # 314 *Arise, Your Light Has Come!*

1. Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.
2. Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.
3. Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.
4. Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. Amen.**

EvLW # 801 *Change My Heart, O God*

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.
You are the potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

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.

Guide your church in the ways of faith, hope, and love. Cultivate ministries and communities of compassion that bear witness to your enduring presence among us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Teach us to live in humility on the earth. Curb arrogance that leads to destruction of natural resources and disregard for future generations. Inspire the work of scientists who urge us to live in harmony with your creation. God of grace, hear our prayer.

You are the refuge of all who seek hope and freedom. Accompany immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers who cross borders to find safety and opportunity. Embolden leaders to draft compassionate policies on behalf of migrants and those who assist them. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Love bears, believes, hopes, and endures all things. Comfort with your love all who are lonely, fearful, or broken-hearted. Sustain the hope of all those who suffer in body or spirit especially Ruth-Anne, Pat, Lloyd, Ken, Josh, Jordon, Ferolyn, Elethia, Daryl, Carol, Beryl and those we name in our hearts. God of grace, hear our prayer.

We praise you for those who have gone before us and now see you face to face. Abide with us in this mortal life until we rest in the arms of your never-ending love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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.

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 Saviour. Amen.

EvLW # 801 Change My Heart, O God

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.
You are the potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favour to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

BLESSING

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

EvLW # 543 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

1. "Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."
2. "Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story, here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."
3. "Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you, here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."

DISMISSAL

Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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| Monday | Jan 31 | Psalm 56 | 1 Kings 17:8-16 | 1 Corinthians 2:6-16 |
| Tuesday | Feb 01 | Psalm 56 | 2 Kings 5:1-14 | 1 Corinthians 14:13-25 |
| Wednesday | Feb 02 | Psalm 56 | Jeremiah 1:11-19 | Luke 19:41-44 |
| Thursday | Feb 03 | Psalm 138 | Numbers 20:22-29 | Acts 9:19b-25 |
| Friday | Feb 04 | Psalm 138 | Numbers 27: 12-23 | Acts 9: 26 – 31 |
| Saturday | Feb 05 | Psalm 138 | Judges 3:7- 11 | Luke 4: 42- 44 |
| Sunday | Feb 06 | Psalm 138 | Isaiah 6:1-8 | 1 Corinthians 15: 1- 11 Luke 5: 1- 11 |

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