

January 30th,2022

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

We Gather in God's Presence

Prelude Holy, Holy, Holy by John B. Dykes. arr. Melody Bober.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Silent Reflection

Birthdays, Celebrations, The life and Work of the Church

Call to Worship

The Creator is both beyond us and among us.

Jesus has come to embody God's reality.

We have a vision of people joined together in love.

Let us praise the One in whose image we were created.

As we celebrate that vision, we affirm that we are one world and one family.

We are open to the source of that vision who is none other than God.

Hymn VU # 658 O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain
that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.

Opening Prayer (in unison)

As the ministry of Jesus was full of struggle and joy, so are our lives as disciples. We are meant to follow Jesus in his faithfulness to God. May the same Spirit that was in Jesus breathe into us that we may never shrink from our calling to bring joy and peace into the lives of others. In the Name of Jesus, we pray. AMEN

We are blessed by God

Anthem: We Believe. by Besig /Price. sung by the Dorchester United Church choir

Time for the Young and the Young at heart

Hymn VU # 589 Lord, Speak to Me

Lord, speak to me that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let me seek
your straying children lost and lone.

O lead me, so that I may lead
the wandering and the wavering feet;
O feed me, so that I may feed
your hungering ones with manna sweet.

O teach me, so that I may teach
the precious truths which you impart;
and wing my words, that they may reach
the hidden depths of many a heart.

O fill me with your fullness, Lord,
until my very heart o'erflows
in kindling thought and glowing word,
your love to tell, your praise to show.

Responsive Reading Psalm 71: 1-6 (part one) VU page 789

In you, O God, I seek refuge; may I never be disappointed.

**In your righteousness, save and rescue me;
incline your ear and deliver me.**

Be a sheltering rock for me,
a fortress where I may find safety;

for you are my rock and my stronghold.

Rescue me, O God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.

**For you are my hope, my trust from my youth;
from the time of my birth I have leaned on you.**

The First Testament Jeremiah 1: 4-10 Jeremiah's Call and Commission

⁴ Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,
⁵ '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.'
⁶ Then I said, 'Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a
boy.'
⁷ 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.'
⁸ Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.'
⁹ 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.'
¹⁰ 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.'

The Gospel

Luke 4: 21-30

²¹ Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'
²² 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?'
²³ He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum."'
²⁴ And he said, 'Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town.'
²⁵ But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land;
²⁶ yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon.
²⁷ There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.'
²⁸ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage.
²⁹ 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.
³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Hymn VU # 560 O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
teach me thy secret, help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move
with some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me thy patience; still with thee,
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sure and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,

in hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Master, let me live.

Sermon "Faithful Living for Crisis Times"

We respond to God's grace

Invitation to invest in God's Mission

With joy and thanksgiving, we offer these gifts to you, O God. May they be instruments of healing to the sick, comfort to the lonely, justice to the oppressed, freedom to the unjustly imprisoned and a message of hope to all who long for Your presence. Amen

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession and the Lord's Prayer

Creator God, you called the prophet from his mother's womb to pluck up and to plant, to call your people back to faithfulness, to renew their loyalty to your covenant. But they preferred exile among strange gods and alien cultures. Like the inhabitants of Judah, we have turned away from you. We need you to deliver and rescue us from willfulness, from the pride and hubris that have overtaken us. You are our refuge and our strength, our rock and our fortress. Empower us to turn away from the lures of sin and the enticements of evil that beset us on every side. We beseech you to hear the cries of the hungry and the suffering in those places that we have forgotten and abandoned. May we find the will to reorder our lives so that the hungry may have enough to eat, the suffering have proper medical care and the homeless have adequate shelter. May we strive for justice and peace in our time. Help us to build a society based on trust and respect. Remove all forms of oppression so that none may turn to violence in their quest for freedom. Fill us with a faith that remains open to your call. Give us a hope that seeks the good of others and a love that embraces the broken-hearted and the rejected. Gracious and merciful God, we offer this prayer in the name of Jesus whose self-effacing love has given us a vision of what a better world is like.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn VU # 660 How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, you servants of God,
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can be said than to you has been said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed!
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen and help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply:
the flame shall not hurt you, I only design
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not -- I will not desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
I'll never -- no, never -- no, never forsake!"

Commissioning and Benediction

Everything that is now covered will be revealed.
Everything that is hidden will be made clear.
What you hear in whispers proclaim on the mountaintops.
**We have heard the message of Epiphany and will declare it
Wherever we go. Amen**

Sung Response

Postlude Brethren, We Have Met to Worship. by William Moore, arr. Melody Bober