

February 6, 2022
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

We Gather In God's Presence

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering In Song VU 951 "Holy, holy, holy"

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!

My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy, God!

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation – see last page ...

Call to Worship

By God's grace, we are who we are;

Imperfect people living in the presence of the divine.

By God's grace, we are who we are;

People called to follow where God will lead.

By God's grace, we are who we are;

People blessed, forgiven, called, made partners of by God.

Let us worship the Lord our God!

Hymn VU 315 "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;

holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Holy One, in the light of your presence, we see ourselves as we truly are; anxious, pained, imperfect people who long to be desired by someone greater than ourselves. By your grace, you touch our fear and anxiety with the burning ember of your compassion. By your grace, you touch our pain and brokenness with the burning ember of your forgiveness. By your grace, you touch our desiring hearts with the burning ember of your love. For your grace bestowed on us we bless you and thank you. You come and answer our fear, our pain, our desiring, yet so often we fail to see the fear, the pain, the desiring in the hearts of those around us. So often we fail to see others as you do, as holy. Remind us that we are not the only ones who need comforting, healing, loving. Remind us of our calling to offer your comfort, healing and love to all the world; not just to people we like, but to the very ones who are ignored by society. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

We Ask God's Blessing

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Loving God, your patience with us is beyond our capacity to imagine. Your desire for us to hear and respond to your beckoning and to be one with you is unfathomable. The blessings you offer to us are unbelievable. We cannot hope to understand you, all we can do in our humility is to bless you and give you thanks.

Passionate God, as you hold our lives in your compassionate embrace, we cry out for wholeness. We cry from the depths of our pain, our sorrow, our hatred, our frustration, our anger. We cry out for ourselves, for those we love, for those we hate, for those who hate us, for all the world. May your healing presence transform our lives. May your loving presence be a comforting reality for all those who find themselves in despair, lost or alone. May your transforming presence create generosity in place of greed, harmony in place of hatred, and everlasting justice where evil now reigns.

Holy God we bring before you the people and places that need your healing, loving, transforming presence: Your church, may it be a place of refuge and transformation for all. Especially we pray this week for South Buxton Pastoral Charge, and their minister, Pastor Eric Skillings.

All the peoples of this world. May we all learn to respect one another, and Your creation. Especially we pray this week for the people of Andorra, Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, and Vatican City.

Those who mourn a loss in their lives, especially the friends and loved ones of Cecil Jenkins and Dolores Johnson.

All who are ill or dying, awaiting medical intervention or recovering from treatment, especially Sammy Gardner, Marleen Parish, Carol Reid, Mac Toner, and their loved ones and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

All this we pray in the name of the One who taught us to pray, saying:

**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.**

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

We don't give to God from the pittance that is left over after everything else we need and want is taken care of, but from the abundance which God blessed us with before anything else is considered.

We don't give to God begrudgingly, but gladly, because we believe in God's mission of justice and equity for all. Our tithes and offerings will be received.

Generous God, through Jesus you lavish abundant life on us. We seek to acknowledge this abundance by sharing not only our money, but our lives as well. Bless these gifts that they may serve your mission. In Jesus' name. Amen.

We Listen For God's Word

Responsive Reading: Psalm 138

I praise you, O God, with all my heart;
before the gods I will sing your praises.

**I bow down toward your holy temple
and praise your name for your love and faithfulness;**

for you have exalted your name
and your word above everything.

**On the day that I called, you answered me,
and put new strength in my soul.**

All earth's rulers shall praise you,
when they hear the words of your mouth.

**They shall sing of your ways, O God,
sing that your glory is great.**

For though you are high, you care for the lowly.

As for the proud, you humble them from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me;
**you stretch out your hand against my enemies' rage;
your powerful hand delivers me.**

You will fulfil your purpose for me.

Your love, O God, is eternal.

Do not leave unfinished the work of your hands.

Scripture: Luke 5:1-11

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

5 Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, **2** he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. **3** He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. **4** When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." **5** Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." **6** When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. **7** So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. **8** But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" **9** For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; **10** and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." **11** When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

*The other readings for this week are: **1 Corinthians 12:12-31a, Luke 4:14-21.** You can look them up on www.biblegateway.com and search for the passage.....in any translation you prefer (ie. King James - KJV, NKJV, NRSV, etc.)*

Hymn VU 562 "Jesus Calls Us"

Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult
of our life's wild restless sea,
day by day his clear voice sounding,
saying, 'Christian, follow me.'

Long ago apostles heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for Jesus' sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, 'Christian, love me more.'

In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
'Christian, love me more than these.'

Jesus calls us: by your mercies,
Saviour, may we hear your call,
give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.

Meditation: "Called"

We Depart With God's Blessing

Hymn VU 567 "Will You Come and Follow Me"

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Christ, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Commissioning and Benediction

May the grace of God, deeper than our imagination;
The strength of Christ, stronger than our need;
And the communion of the Holy Spirit, richer than our togetherness,
Guide us and sustain us today, and in all our tomorrows.

Sung Response: VU 963 May the Grace of Christ Attend Us

May the grace of Christ attend us,
and the love of God surround us,
and the Holy Spirit keep us,
now and ever. Amen.

Announcements.....

Union:

Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, February 6, following worship.

Dorchester:

Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, February 13, following worship.

ALL:

Lenten Reflections: Rev. Mark is trying determine interest in a weekly reflection on scripture, based on Betty Lynn Schwab's book *Diving Deeply*, for the season of Lent. Sessions could be held Wednesday or Thursday afternoons, depending on what works best for those who are interested, commencing Wednesday, March 2 (or Thursday, March 3) until Wednesday, April 13 (or Thursday, April 14). If you are interested, please let Rev. Mark know, and indicate your preference of day and time.

Siloam United Church is offering a **free**, three-part event – **Emotional Wellness: A Spiritual Journey** for all ages, on Tuesdays, February 8, 15, and March 1, 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. The speaker is Grace Tallman, RN BScN, Mental Health Counsellor, and Grief Recovery Specialist. The goals of the series are to provide a fresh understanding of your mental health challenges (the evenings will focus on Depression, Anxiety, and Resilience), offer coping strategies, and offer a renewed sense of hope. For more information, or to request the ZOOM link, contact Rev. Ann Corbet at acorbetrev@gmail.com.

Five Oaks is offering **Books and Coffee** online on February 8, 15, 22, and March 1.

This online book club focuses on learning from different cultures and interacting with diverse people. Each week you will read specified chapters and answer reflection questions and Nazra Ranmall will lead the online chat about what was read and your thoughts about Arundhati Roy's book *The God of Small Things*. To register, go to:

<https://fiveoaks.venue360.me/public/events/homepage?&org=ALL&eventPlan=ALL&season=ALL&groupBySeason=false&event=81>

Five Oaks is offering **Sister Water and the Sultan** online on February 10, 17, 24, and March 3, 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Len Desroches will gently guide you through an exploration of the spirituality of Francis of Assisi, including a powerful encounter with the Muslim Sultan of Egypt. To register, go to:

<https://fiveoaks.venue360.me/public/events/homepage?&org=ALL&eventPlan=ALL&season=ALL&groupBySeason=false&event=72>

Five Oaks is offering **Family Fun Day** live in-person on February 19. Join in an afternoon of winter fun: family activities, crafts, storywalk, campfire and more. All activities will be facilitated in line with the latest Public Health guidelines. Registration coming soon to <https://fiveoaks.on.ca/program-schedule/>

Horseshoe Falls Regional Council invites you to join their Sunday Evening Discussion Group on the topic **Racism is a Pandemic**. The group meets twice monthly from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., commencing Sunday, January 16. For more details, and to register, go to: <https://arwrcucc.ca/racism-is-a-pandemic/>

Lectionary Readings for next week: (February 13, Sixth after Epiphany)

Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-26; Luke 6:17-26