

January 15, 2023
Second after Epiphany

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Let All Things Now Living" Traditional Welsh Melody arr. by Cindy Berry

Lighting the Christ Candle

Moment of Silent Reflection

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

Call to Worship

What are you looking for?

We are looking to be comforted.

What are you looking for?

We are looking for peace within our souls.

What are you looking for?

We are looking for salvation.

Come and see; the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Let us worship the Messiah, the Christ, the anointed One of God!

Hymn: VU 415 "God, We Praise You for the Morning"

God, we praise you for the morning;
hope springs forth with each new day,
new beginning, prayer, and promise,
joy in work and in play.

God, we praise you for creation,
mountains, seas, and prairie land.
Waking souls find joy and healing
in your bountiful hand.

God, we praise you for compassion,
all the loving that you show;
human touching, tears, and laughter,
help your children to grow.

God, we praise you for your Spirit,
Comforter and daily friend,
restless searcher, gentle teacher,
strength and courage you send.

God, we praise you for the Saviour,
come that we may know your ways.

In his loving, dying, rising,
Christ is Lord of our days.

Hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah, hallelujah!
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Christ is Lord of our days!

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Holy One, You asked the two disciples what they were looking for and invited them to “Come and see.” You ask us the same question, and we have come to see. We have come to see and worship and pray and sing and hear your word for us this day. Help our disbelief, our reluctance, and our misunderstandings that we might serve you all of our days as redeemed, forgiven believers. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem:

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

Hymn VU 570 “Jesus’ Hands Were Kind Hands”

Jesus’ hands were kind hands, doing good to all,
healing pain and sickness, blessing children small,
washing tired feet, and saving those who fall;
Jesus’ hands were kind hands, doing good to all.

Take my hands, O Jesus, let them work for you,
make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do;
let me watch you, Jesus, till I’m gentle too,
till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.

Psalm 40

Refrain: You put a new song in my mouth, your name to glorify.

I waited patiently for you, O God;
you bent down and heard my cry.

**You lifted me out of the horrible pit, out of the miry clay,
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.**

You put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

**Many shall see and wonder,
and will put their trust in you.**

R: You put a new song in my mouth, your name to glorify.

Blessed are those whose trust is in God,
**who have not turned to the proud,
nor to those who follow a lie.**

O God, my God, you have multiplied your wondrous deeds
**and your thoughts toward us;
none can compare with you!**

I would proclaim and tell of them,
but they are more than can be numbered.

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
burnt offering and sacrifice for sin you have not required.

But you have opened my ears to hear, and I said: ‘Here I am,
ready to do what is written in the scroll of the book.’

**I delight to do your will, O my God,
your law is in my heart.**

R: You put a new song in my mouth, your name to glorify.

I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation;
I did not restrain my lips, as you well know.

**I have not kept your goodness hidden in my heart,
but have spoken of your faithfulness
and your saving help.**

I have not concealed your steadfast love,
nor your truth from the great congregation.

**Do not withhold from me your tender care, O God;
may your love and truth ever preserve me.**

R: You put a new song in my mouth, your name to glorify.

Scripture: John 1:29-42

²⁹ The next day [John the baptizer] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³² And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him." ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

The First Disciples of Jesus

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter, and means rock).

*The other readings for this week are: **Isaiah 49:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9***

Meditation: "BBB"

Hymn VU 101 "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus Christ, to you we raise,
manifested by the star to the sages from afar;
branch of royal David's stem in your birth at Bethlehem;
anthems be to you addressed, God in flesh made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
and at Cana wedding guest, in your Godhead manifest;
manifest in power divine, changing water into wine;
anthems be to you addressed, God in flesh made manifest.

Manifest in making whole palsied limbs and fainting soul;
manifest in valiant fight, quelling all the devil's might;
manifest in gracious will, ever bringing good from ill;
anthems be to you addressed, God in flesh made manifest.

Grant us grace to see you, Lord, mirrored in your holy Word;
with your grace our lives endow, grace to imitate you now,
that we like to you may be at your great epiphany,
anthems be to you addressed, God in flesh made manifest.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

We have been blessed by God – with a new year, with new hope, with new opportunities, with skills and talents, with community, with family, with all that we have, even with life itself. In gratitude, we share those blessings with all around us, especially with those who are vulnerable and marginalized. Our tithes and offerings will be received.

Offertory Hymn VU 55 "In the Bleak Midwinter" vs 4

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, like Andrew, Simon Peter, and the others, we want to see what you are up to in the world. Like Andrew, Simon Peter, and the others, we want to take part in your mission to the world. Like Andrew, Simon Peter, and the others, we offer not only our material wealth, but our whole selves to you and to all those who need our support in the quest for justice, peace, and wholeness. Bless all that we offer, we pray. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

R: Through our lives and by our prayers your Kingdom come.

God of heaven and earth, Empower the church throughout the world in its life and witness. Break down the barriers that divide, that, united in your truth and love, the church may confess your name, share one baptism, sit together at one table, and serve you in common ministry. This week we pray especially for First United Church in St. Thomas, and their minister the Rev. Paul Browning.

R: Through our lives and by our prayers your Kingdom come.

Guide the rulers of the nations. Move them to set aside their fear, greed, and vain ambitions and rule according to your example of distributive justice and compassion. Inspire them to strive for peace that all your children may dwell secure, free of war and injustice. We pray especially for the peoples of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

R: Through our lives and by our prayers your Kingdom come.

Hear the cries of the world's hungry and suffering. Give us, who consume most of earth's resources the will to reorder our lives, that all may have their rightful share of the food, water, medical care, and shelter we all need, and so may live a life of dignity.

R: Through our lives and by our prayers your Kingdom come.

Strengthen this congregation in its work and worship. Fill our hearts with your self-giving love, that our voices may speak your praise, and our lives may conform to the life of your Son. Nourish us with your Word and sacraments that we may faithfully minister in your name, and witness to your love and grace for all the world.

R: Through our lives and by our prayers your Kingdom come.

Look with compassion on all who suffer. Support with your love those with incurable and stigmatized diseases, those unjustly imprisoned, those denied dignity, those who live without hope, those who are homeless or abandoned, those living with addictions and/or mental health issues, those who mourn a loss; especially we think of the friends and family of Glenda McMillan, Harry Gillard, and Marje Lanning; those who are ill or dying, awaiting medical treatment or recovering from medical intervention, especially we remember....., and their loved ones and their caregivers and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

[after 60 seconds of silence]

R: Through our lives and by our prayers your Kingdom come.

As you have moved toward us in love, so lead us to be present with them in their suffering in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, and who taught us to pray, saying,

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 sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Hymn VU 93 "When Heaven's Bright with Mystery"

When heaven's bright with mystery

and science searches nature's art,

when all creation yearns for peace

and hope sinks deep in human hearts,

appear to us, O Holy Light;

lift from our eyes the shades of night.

When Herod barter power and lives
and Rachel's weeping fills the night,
when suffering's mask marks every face,
and Love's a refugee in flight,
 reveal to us your word of grace
 and make us witness to your peace.

When fragile faith, like desert wind,
blows dry and empty, hope erased,
when withered grass and fading flower
proclaim again our day's brief space,
 breathe on the clay of our despair
 and work a new creation there.

When heaven's bright with mystery
and stars still lead an unknown way,
when love still lights a gentle path
where courts of power can hold no sway,
 there with the Magi, let us kneel,
 our gifts to share, God's world to heal.

Commissioning and Benediction

In the power of the Holy Spirit,
go into the world and fulfil your calling as disciples (which translated means students)
of Christ Jesus, and

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
The love of God, and
The communion of the Holy Spirit go with us all.
Amen.**

Response: VU 454 "May God Who Creates You"

May God who creates you give you light;
may God who sustains you make you wise;
may God who protects you give you joy,
may God who surrounds you give you peace.

Postlude: "Jesus Shall Reign" Joan Hatton Arr. by Cindy Berry

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL:

Rev. Mark will be on vacation Monday, January 16 – Sunday, January 22.

For pastoral emergencies: Dorchester, please contact Mary Dillon at 519-878-7134,
Union, please contact the Rev. Tom Beecroft at 519-615-0281

DORCHESTER:

Central Board meets Wednesday, February 1 at 7 p.m.

Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, February 12

UNION:

The deadline for Annual Report submissions is January 25th.

Unified Board meets Wednesday, January 25 at 7 p.m.

Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, February 5 following worship

Lectionary Readings for next week:

(January 22, Third after Epiphany)

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

(January 29, Fourth after Epiphany)

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17