

January 14, 2024
Second Sunday after Epiphany
We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "The First Nowell" arr. by Kevin Olsen

Lighting the Christ Candle

Your Word, O God, is a lamp to our feet, **and a light for our path.**

Moment of Silent Reflection

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

Call to Worship

We are summoned here by the LORD our God,
**who calls each of us by name,
and gathers us together in the unity of Jesus Christ.**

Teachers, farmers, nurses, cooks;

we hear our names being called to join in worship.

This hour of worship is a time to learn of God's vision for all people:
unity and joy and faith expressed through different gifts.

Let us worship together!

Hymn: VU 79 "Arise, Your Light Is Come"

Arise, you light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.

Arise, you light is come! Fling wide the prison door,
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, you light is come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, you light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Lord, as you formed Adam from the dust of the ground, so you formed us; knit us together in our mothers' wombs. You know us intimately. You know all our ways. You even know what we will say, before the words are in our mouths. You know everything about us, and yet you call us. Like Moses, we are sure that you have made a mistake; we want you to call someone else. Again you call us. Like Nathanael we scoff; we would rather rest under a tree and ponder our navel than give up all that we have to follow you. And still you call us. Forgive us when we fail to listen for your call. Forgive us when we fail to heed your call. We know that when we fail to listen and to follow where you would lead us, we fail ourselves, we fail our neighbours, and, ultimately, we fail you, O Lord. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem:

Time for the Young and the Young @



Hymn: VU 506 "Take My Life and Let It Be"

Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, all for thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and purposeful for thee.

Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love: and I will pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Psalm 139 VU 861

R: God, you have searched me, you know me through and through.

O God, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

**You discern my path and the places I rest;
you are familiar with all my ways.**

Before a word is on my tongue,

you know it, O God, completely.

You guard me from behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

**It is beyond my knowledge; it is a mystery;
I cannot fathom it.**

R: God, you have searched me, you know me through and through.

Where can I escape from your spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

**If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I lie down in the grave, you are even there.**

If I take wing with the dawn

and alight at the sea's farthest limits,

**there also your hand will be guiding me
your powerful hand holding me fast.**

If I say, 'Let the darkness cover me
and my day be turned to night,'

**even darkness is not dark to you:
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.**

R: God, you have searched me, you know me through and through.

It was you who formed my inward parts;
you fashioned me in my mother's womb.

**I praise you, for I am fearfully, wonderfully made.
Wondrous are your works; that I know very well.**

My frame was not hidden from you
when I was being fashioned in secret,
intricately woven in the mystery of clay.

**Your eyes saw my substance taking shape;
in your book my every day was recorded;
all my days were fashioned,
even before they came to be.**

R: God, you have searched me, you know me through and through.

How deep your designs are to me, O God!
How great their number!

**I try to count them but they are more than the sand.
I come to the end - I am still with you.**

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.

Watch closely, lest I follow a path of error
and guide me in the everlasting way.

R: God, you have searched me, you know me through and through.

Scripture: John 1:43-51 Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

The other readings for this week are: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20); 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Meditation: "Called"

Hymn VU 563 "Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore"

USE HYMN BOOKS

We Respond To God's Grace

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

You speak, O God, and we listen. You call, O God, and we follow. Well, sometimes. Sometimes we ignore the message. Sometimes we drag our feet. Yet always you keep speaking to us and calling us to new and unknown pathways. Even when we pretend not to hear, even when we hesitate, you never give up on us. Help us to be faithful listeners and followers. Just as we listen for your word to us, we ask that you too would listen, listen to your children praying.

Listen as we pray for your church: a church that is waning in numbers and influence in our society; a church that is aging and running out of steam; a church that is inward focused, worried about survival, and with all that is wrong or missing; a church that is struggling to remain faithful to you and your intent of a just and peaceful world. This week we pray for Knox United Church in Embro, and their spiritual leader, the Rev. Susan Cole.

Listen as we pray for the nations and leaders of this world: nations and leaders that are focussed only on themselves, only on their own benefit – to heck with anybody and everybody else. It is an attitude that is corrosive to neighbours and the wellbeing of all. This week we pray especially for the peoples of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Listen as we pray for those who are ill or dying, recovering from medical intervention or facing ever increasing waits for medical treatment, and for their loved ones and caregivers; especially we think of ..., and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

Listen as we pray for those who mourn the death of loved ones, especially the friends and family of Elizabeth Clements, Jack Lorimer, the Rev. Bruce Scott, and the Rev. Lewis Snow...

Listen as we pray for the concerns that weigh most heavily on each of us....

God of mercy, thank you for listening, thank you for hearing, thank you for acting.

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 yours is the kingdom the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

Holy One, you call us to be your people: to work for justice and to share our blessings with others. To the thirsty we offer water. To the hungry we offer food. To the naked we offer clothing. To the homeless we offer shelter. And to those who are far off, we offer the means to purchase that which they are most in need of. Our tithes and other offerings will be accepted.

Offertory Hymn VU 544 "In Gratitude and Humble Trust"

In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.

O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

Prayer of Dedication

God, add your blessing to these offerings of ours, that they may be used to bless the vulnerable and marginalized in this world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Hymn VU 569 "You Call Us Out"

USE HYMN BOOKS

Commissioning and Benediction

We have heard the voice that calls us away from the nets of the world.

May that voice continue to lead us on our journeys of faith,

And prepare us for the tasks at hand,

So that together we may prepare the way of the Lord.

May the blessings of God be with us.

May the love of Christ be with us.

May the grace of the Holy Spirit be with us,

this day and always. Amen.

Response: "Go Now in Peace"

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.

Know He will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there supporting us with love.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Amen, amen, amen.

Postlude: "Let All Things Now Living" arr. by Cindy Berry

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A special meeting of the **Central Board** is scheduled for Wednesday, January 17 at 7 p.m. to discuss future vision. The Rev. Lynne Allin, Congregational Support staff person for Antler River Watershed Regional Council will be in attendance to help direct the discussion and to answer questions.

Church Family Turkey Dinner

Come out and celebrate the New Year and your Church Family on Friday, January 26 at 6:00 p.m.

Tickets are: Adults - \$25, 6-12 - \$10, 5 and Under – FREE

Tickets are available from: the church office 519-268-3154, Marion Woods 519-461-1136, or Jane Bushe 519-268-3360

LECTIONARY READINGS:

January 21 – 3rd after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20