

January 21, 2024  
Third Sunday after Epiphany

**We Gather In God's Presence**

**Prelude:** "He Shall Feed His Flock" G. F. Handel

Kathleen Hyde and Laura Bolt

**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**

God's Spirit calls to our spirits,

**inviting us to worship.**

God's Spirit calls to our spirits,

**inviting us by love.**

God's Spirit calls to our spirits,

**calling us by name,**

**calling us to grow in faith,**

**calling us to be made new.**

We come to worship in this season of Epiphany.

**Hymn: VU 315** "Holy, Holy, Holy"

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)**

We trust in God. For God alone our souls wait. Once God has spoken, all too often, like Jonah we run from the ministry to which we are called. Again God calls, and most of us would rather stay in the boat with our ancestors, than leave all that we know for 'God only knows' what. Even so, put Your faith in us yet again. We are called to be the Church. Let us not fail ourselves, fail Your creation, and fail You, O God. Rather, give us the courage and the humility to live up to Your faith in us, that all the people of this world may be blessed, as we are blessed. Amen.

## **We Are Blessed By God**

**Ministry of Music:** “Danse des Champs Elysées” Christoph Willibald Gluck

Laura Bolt

**Time for the Young and the Young @** 

**Hymn: MV 161** “I Have Called You by Your Name”

I have called you by your name, you are mine;

I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.

I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.

You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.

I will help you learn my name as you go;

read it written in my people, help them grow.

Pour the water in my name, speak the word your soul can claim,

offer Jesus’ body given long ago.

I know you will need my touch as you go;

feel it pulsing in creation’s ebb and flow.

Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in spite of doubt,

hold the hem of Jesus’ robe, then let it go.

I have given you a name, it is mine;

I have given you my Spirit as a sign.

With my wonder in your soul, make my wounded children whole;

go and tell my precious people they are mine.

**Psalm 62 VU 779**

**R: Rest in God alone; rest in God alone, my soul, my soul.**

How long will all of you set upon me and batter me,

as though I were a tottering wall or a leaning fence?

**Their purpose is to thrust me down from my eminence;**

**they delight in lies;**

**they bless with their lips but curse me in their hearts.**

Yet be still, my soul, and wait for God,

**from whom comes my hope of deliverance.**

**R: Rest in God alone; rest in God alone, my soul, my soul.**

In God is my deliverance and my honour,

the rock of my strength and my place of refuge.

**Put your trust in God always, you people;**

**pour out your hearts before the One who is our refuge.**

**R: Rest in God alone; rest in God alone, my soul, my soul.**

For we mortals are only a puff of wind;

the great among us are but illusion;

**placed in the balance,**

**we weigh less than a breath.**

Put no trust in extortion, set no vain hopes on plunder;

**if riches increase, do not set your heart upon them.**

Once God has spoken, and twice have I heard it said:  
"Power belongs to you, O God. Steadfast love is yours."

**You reward us all according to our deeds.**

**R: Rest in God alone; rest in God alone, my soul, my soul.**

**Scripture: Mark 1:14-20 Jesus Calls the First Disciples**

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, for they were fishers. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

*The other readings for this week are: **Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31***

**Meditation:** "The Parable of the Three Little Pigs"

**Hymn VU 87** "I Am the Light of the World"

"I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!"

If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and the shepherds have found their way home,  
the work of Christmas is begun:

"I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!"

If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.

To find the lost and lonely one,  
to heal the broken soul with love,  
to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,  
to feel the earth below, the sky above!

"I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!"

If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.

To free the prisoner from all chains,  
to make the powerful care,  
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,  
to see God's children everywhere!

"I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!"

If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.

To bring hope to every task you do,  
to dance at a baby's new birth,  
to make music in an old person's heart,  
and sing to the colours of the earth!

"I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!"

If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.

## ***We Respond To God's Grace***

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer**

Holy One, as we go our separate ways this week we ask that you send the Holy Spirit into our lives. May the Spirit that sustains us:

Empower your 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 one common ministry. This week we pray for Trinity United Church in Ingersoll as they search for a new spiritual leader.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide the rulers of the nations. Move them to set aside their fear, greed, and vain ambition, and bow to your sovereign rule. Inspire them to strive for peace and justice, that all your children may dwell secure, free of war and injustice.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear the cries of the world's hungry and suffering. Give us, who consume most the earth's resources, the will to reorder our lives, that all may have their rightful share of the food, medical care, and shelter, and so have the necessities of a life of dignity. We pray for all our brothers and sisters around the world, and this week we pray especially for the people of Cyprus, Greece and Turkiye.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Restore among us a love of the earth you created for our home. Help us to put an end to ravishing its land, air, and waters, and give us respect for all your creatures, that, living in harmony with everything you have made, your whole creation may resound in an anthem of praise to your glorious name.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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 image 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.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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. As you have moved toward us in love, so lead us to be present with them in their suffering in the name of Jesus Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain those among us who need your healing touch. Make the sick whole and give hope to the dying, especially we think of:....., and their friends and families and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Comfort those who mourn, especially the friends and family of: Jack Lorimer, the Rev. Bruce Scott, and the Rev. Lewis Snow

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, in your loving purpose, answer our prayers and fulfill our hopes. In all things for which we pray, give us the will to seek to bring them about, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray,

**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**

The good news was preached in Galilee by Jesus. The people of Ninevah heard God's message through Jonah. The message of God's grace continues to be preached and heard in this land and around the world. We respond to hearing the good news of God's grace with our tithes and offerings.

### **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**

Word of God, we offer these gifts to enable your good news to be heard throughout this land and across the face of your creation. May these gifts bring good news to many who are seeking your grace in their lives.  
Amen.

### **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**

God calls people in every age  
to proclaim the good news of God's dominion  
where there is love and equity and peace and joy for all.

**We hear your call, and in faith we answer.**

**In hope and with joy we go to bear witness  
to the power of God's great love to free and to heal.**

May the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the power of the Holy Spirit go 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:** "Be Thou My Vision" John Rutter

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **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: 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 Busche 519-268-3360

### **Ash Wednesday Service**

A joint worship service with St. Peter's Anglican Church is planned for Ash Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. on  
Wednesday, February 14, at St. Peter's.

### **LECTIONARY READINGS:**

January 28 – 4<sup>th</sup> after Epiphany  
Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28