

**A morning service during the Covid-19 restrictions
4th Sunday after Epiphany - January 31, 2021**

Lord, open our lips,

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia!

The Lord is our light and our life: O come let us worship.

#48 O For A Thousand Tongues

**O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace.**

**Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease,
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.**

**He speaks, and listening to his voice, new life the dead receive,
the mournful broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.**

**Hear him ye deaf, his praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ;
ye blind, behold your Saviour come; and leap, ye lame, for joy.**

**My gracious Master, and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honours of thy name.** Charles Wesley 1707-1788

**The Proclamation of the Word
Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

Psalm 111

**1 Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,*
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.**

**2 Great are the deeds of the Lord,*
they are studied by all who delight in them.**

**3 His work is full of majesty and splendour,*
and his righteousness endures for ever.**

**4 He makes his marvellous works to be remembered;*
the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.**

**5 He gives food to those who fear him;*
he is ever mindful of his covenant.**

**6 He has shown his people the power of his works*
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

**7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice;*
all his commandments are sure.**

**8 They stand fast for ever and ever,*
because they are done in truth and equity.**

**9 He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant for ever;*
holy and awesome is his name.**

**10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;*
those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures for ever.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning is now and will be for ever. Amen.

1 Corinthians 8:1-13;

Mark 1:21-28

A reflection on the readings (written by the Ven. Glen Miller)

Affirmation of Faith

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like it:

Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

#254 Nearer, My God, To Thee

**Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee! Even though it be a cross that raiseth me,
still all my song would be 'Nearer, my God, to thee,
Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee.'**

**Though, like the wanderer, the sun gone down, darkness be over me, my rest a stone,
yet in my dreams I'd be nearer, my God, to thee,
Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee.**

**There let the way appear steps unto heaven; all that thou sendest me in mercy given;
angels to beckon me, nearer, my God, to thee,
Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee.**

**Then with my waking thoughts bright with thy praise, out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise,
so by my woes to be nearer, my God, to thee,
Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee.**

**Or if on joyful wing cleaving the sky, sun, moon, and stars forgot, upwards I fly,
still all my song shall be 'Nearer, my God, to thee,
Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee.'** Sarah Flower Adams 1805-1848

Prayers (see litany below)

Our prayers have been requested for: Thelma, Joanne, Wendy, Vivian, Spruce, the front line workers who continue to serve in the midst of this pandemic, the family of Gwen Cascanette as they mourn her sudden death.

18 A Responsive Intercession

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbours, and for all those who are alone.

For this community, our country, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the truth.

For *Anne* our bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For our own needs and those of others.

Silence. The people may add their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence. The people may add their own thanksgivings.

We will exalt you, O God our king;

And praise your name for ever and ever.

We pray for all those who have died in the peace of Christ,
and for those whose faith is known to you alone,
that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence. The people may add their own petitions.

Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Have mercy on us, most merciful Father; in your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honour and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Merciful God, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect of the day

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lord's prayer

#30 Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who like these his praise should sing?
Praise him, praise him, alleluia, praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour to our fathers in distress;
praise him, still the same for ever, slow to chide and swift to bless;
praise him, praise him, alleluia, glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like he tends and spares us; well our feeble from he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes;
praise him, praise him, alleluia, widely as his mercy flows.

Frail as summer's flower we flourish; blows the wind and it is gone;
but, while mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on:
praise him, praise him, alleluia, praise the high eternal one.

Angels help us to adore him, ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space,
praise him, praise him, alleluia, praise with us the God of grace. Henry Francis Lyte: 1793-1847

Dismissal

Then may be said or sung,

Officiant Let us bless the Lord. *People* Thanks be to God!

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