

**Online Joint Worship for the Mid Fraser Cluster
Aldergrove, Gladwin Heights, St. Andrews
and Trinity Memorial United Churches**

**The Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany
January 31st, 2021**

Thank you for Connecting for Worship

Today's Leadership includes

Preacher: The Rev. Tracy Fairfield

Presiding: The Rev. Tim Bowman & The Rev. Bill Booth

Musician: Donna Poncelet

Song Leader: Deborah Handley

Technical Support: Jeremy Wright

People are invited to share their prayers in the chat during the worship service.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Words of Welcome, Announcements from Each Congregation

Land Acknowledgement All

Lighting the Rainbow Candles Tim

Lighting the Christ Candle Tracy/Tim

Once there was a star that twinkled high above the night sky. It was so captivating that people simply had to follow it, and they followed it all the way to Bethlehem.

(the candle is lit)

The Light of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Sung response: "Arise, Your Light is Come" (verse 1) VU 79

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;

Show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.

Call to Worship: Bill

Let us gather in this place as the community of Christ.

This place is not a physical place,
defined by the span of wall and roof,

but by the breadth of our welcome and the length of vision.

Let us gather as a community, defined not by location
but by our common desire to hear the wisdom of our tradition,

to follow Jesus, our teacher and brother,

and to find the words of Scripture

transformed again into the Word of God.

Opening Prayer: Tim

Speak then, God;

Speak then, Jesus;

Speak then, Holy Spirit.

Speak with authority:

breathe deeper meaning into our words.

Breathe life into our lungs;

Breathe healing into our hearts.

Speak with authority;

for you have the words of life.

Hymn: VU 686 - "God of Grace and God of Glory"

*God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;
now fulfil your church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour.*

*Lo, the hosts of evil round us scorn your Christ, assail your ways;
fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days.*

*Cure your children's warring madness, bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton selfish gladness, rich in goods and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss your kingdom's goal.*

*Set our feet on lofty places, gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christlike graces, pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, that we fail not them nor thee.*

Time with our Children: Bill

Hymn: "Know That God is Good" MV 104

*Know that God is good, Know that God is good,
Know that God is good, God is good, God is good. X 2*

We invite the children and their leaders into breakout rooms.

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

Scripture Readings:

Psalm 111 (VU pg 833)

I will thank you, God, with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in their assembly.

**Great are your works, O God,
studied by all who delight in them.**

Honour and majesty are your work;
your righteousness endures forever.

**You have won renown for your wonders;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

You give food to those who fear you; you keep your covenant always in mind.

**You have shown your power in action,
giving your people the heritage of nations.**

The works of your hands are faithful and just;
all your precepts trustworthy.

**They stand fast forever and ever;
grounded in justice and truth.**

You sent redemption to your people;

you decreed your covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is your name.

The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom;

those who practice it have good understanding.

May your praise endure forever.

Mark 1:21-28

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "Where Do You Go For a Miracle?" **Tracy**

Hymn: "Christ, in Capernaum"

Christ, in Capernaum, people were awed by your preaching.
You had authority many could hear in your teaching.
In you they saw
Love that informed all their law —
Truth that was kind and far-reaching.

Into that place came a man who was troubled in spirit.
He cried aloud so the worshiping people could hear it.
Awe mixed with fear!
God's loving reign had come near!
Evil could simply not bear it.

Lord, you rebuked all that kept him from knowing God's healing;
You countered evil with power that sent spirits reeling.
God has control!
God wants our lives to be whole!
This was what you were revealing.

Still there is evil that tries to destroy and enslave us,
Still, by your grace, we encounter your power to save us.
You heal our pain,
Showing the joy of God's reign.
This is the teaching you give us!

WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND ACTION

Prayer of response to the Call: **Tim**

When you speak holiness, God, the demonic responds.
When you speak inclusion, you challenge division and hate.
When you speak healing, you challenge illness and death.
When you speak possibility, you challenge hopelessness and fear.

The domination systems of Palestine resisted you: the crowns, the swords,
the fingers on the scales of justice rejected you.
The domination systems of Canada resist you: the Parliaments, the weapons,
the uncaring forms-in-triplicate reject you.

The demons of fear and greed and illness
whisper to all of us that we should not listen to you.
These are old and familiar demons, and we are well acquainted with their lies.

Silent Reflection

Words of Assurance: Tim

But God speaks a fresh word,
a new word, an authoritative word.

**Into every "no," God breathes Yes;
Into every "impossible," God breaths Possibility.**

Prayers of the People and all the World: Tim

Prayers shared from the chat: Bill

Holy God, you hear our words; you hear our hearts. We are known and heard
deeply, graciously, constantly. Confident in this grace, we speak together the words
that Jesus taught us...

The Lord's Prayer [Spoken]

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass 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.

Acknowledging Our Gifts for the Work of God & Prayer of Dedication: Tim

We bring our offerings for God's work among us in many ways:
cash and cheques mailed or dropped off;
Pre-Authorized Remittance and our online donations.
And we offer our time and work for God's work among us.

Doxology

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" VU 541

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures
high and low; give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.*

Prayer of Dedication: Tim

Bless these gifts we offer: our treasures; our work; our love.

They express our hope for Light in the World.

Here are our hearts; here is our time; here are our passions; here are our lives.

Let our gifts and our lives proclaim Light to the World.

Amen.

Hymn: MV 89 - "Love is the Touch of Intangible Joy"

*Love is the touch of intangible joy;
love is the force that no fear can destroy;
love is the goodness we gladly applaud:
God is where love is, for love is of God.*

*Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;
love is the hope that can make us rejoice;
love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:
God is where love is, for love is of God.*

*Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;
love is the will to be whole once again;
love is the trust of a friend on the road:
God is where love is, for love is of God.*

*Love is the Maker and Spirit and Son;
love is the kingdom their will has begun;
love is the path which the saints all have trod:
God is where love is, for love is of God.*

Blessing and Sending Forth: Tracy

The One who is healing sends you;
The One who heals walks with you;
The One who lives in the healed unites and amazes you.
Go with God.
Amen.

Sung Response: “I Am the Light of the World” (chorus) VU 87 2x

*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.*

Postlude

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