



January 24th, 2021 ~ 10:30 AM ~ 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Watch this service on our website: www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/live

or directly on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/lp3paltffGc>

Leading us today in Worship

Minister: Rev. Thérèse Samuel

Music Director: Dr. Christopher Burton

Lay Leader: Phyllis Fleming

Scripture Reader: Jim Dolmer

~ Leader: regular font ~ All: bold font ~ Sung words: bold italics

We Join One Another to Worship God

PRELUDE: Sonata in E Flat Major 2nd Mov't Haydn

GREETING (2 Cor 13:14)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

WELCOME

SUNG VERSE VU 82 A Light is Gleaming (refrain only)

***A light is gleaming, spreading its arms throughout the night,
living in the light.***

***Come share its gladness, God's radiant love is burning bright,
living in the light.***

"In the brightness God has given," we worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP

AWA

Did you hear the good news?

The kingdom of God has drawn near.

Do you trust the good news?

**We place our trust in Jesus,
The one who calls us to follow him.**

Do you have the courage
to leave your former lives behind?

**We put our faith in the Lord,
Our rock and our salvation.**

Trust the Lord.

We will follow Jesus.

OPENING PRAYER

AWA

**Teach us anew, rock of our salvation,
how your kingdom has come near.
As you called Simon and Andrew long ago,
call us to be your disciples this day,
that we might find refuge and strength
as we face the destructive forces of our lives.**

**Grant us the strength to wait for you in silence,
that we might meet you
in the subterranean chambers of our souls.
For in you we rest secure,
in you we abide in holy love. Amen.**

HYMN VU 262 A Mighty Fortress is Our God

1.

***A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper sure amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing;
for still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe;
with power and malice great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth he has no equal.***

2.

***Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side,
the man of God's own choosing:
dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same,***

and he must win the battle.

3.

**And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed
the truth to triumph through us:
the prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure,
one little word shall fell him.**

4.

**That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through Christ, who with us sideth:
let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still,
God's kingdom is for ever.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

AWA

Mighty God, the words of your son echo in our ears:

**“The kingdom of God has come near;
repent and believe in the good news.”**

**How long we set aside the advice of others
And put our trust firmly in you.**

**How we yearn for the faithfulness of James and John,
Who immediately left their boats to follow Jesus**

We know our fearful hearts, O God.

**We know how far we are from being able to trust
a complete stranger...
especially with our very lives.**

**We hope to one day have their devotion,
even as we cannot find the nerve
to leave familiar paths behind.**

**Renew us, Holy One,
and bless us with your steadfast love,
that we might truly live as people
who have seen your kingdom draw near.**

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

AWA

Just as God forgave the people of Nineveh
when they repented and turned from their ways,
so God will forgive us also,
when we turn to walk in the paths of life.
Pour out your hearts before God,
our refuge and our strength.
Pour out your hearts and find peace.

God Speaks, We Listen

INVITATION TO THE WORD

Let us hear the word of God
as those for whom the kingdom has drawn near.
Let us heed the word of God
as those for whom light has dawned.
Let us live the word of God
as those for whom the ways of God
are deeply lived.

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 62: 5-12 VU 779 Be still, my soul, and wait for God.

Refrain

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.

Refrain

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.**

Refrain

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.

Refrain

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

SECOND READING:

MARK 1: 14-20 John calls Simon, Andrew and John.

14. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God,
15. and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."
16. As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea - for they were fishermen.
17. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people."
18. And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

19. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of
 Jebedee and his brother John, who were in their boats
 mending their nets,
 20. immediately he called them; and they left their father
 Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed
 him.

RESPONSE:

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

SERMON "Leave What? For What?!"

HYMN MV 113 Jesus Saw Them Fishing

1.

***Jesus saw them fishing by the shore of Galilee,
 casting out their nets into the sea.***

***Simon Peter, Andrew and the sons of Zebedee,
 waiting in their boats so patiently.***

Refrain

And Jesus said,

"Oh, come and follow me.

Oh, leave behind your nets. I call you.

***Oh, come and fish with me, and your life
 will never be the same again."***

2.

rich young person came to Jesus looking for advice.

"How can I obtain eternal life?"

Jesus told him, "Honour the commandments of the Lord.

Then sell off all your riches for the poor."

Refrain

And Jesus said,

"Oh, come and follow me.

Oh, leave behind your nets. I call you.

***Oh, come and fish with me, and your life
 will never be the same again."***

3.

***If you want to follow me, deny your very self.
Take up your cross and walk the walk with me.
This might seem a hardship, an impossibility,
but nothing is impossible with God."***

Refrain

And Jesus said,

"Oh, come and follow me.

Oh, leave behind your nets. I call you.

***Oh, come and fish with me, and your life
will never be the same again."***

We Join God in the World

PROFESSION OF FAITH A New Creed

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created
and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus,
 crucified and risen,
 our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

AWA

Call to Silent Prayer:

For God alone our souls wait in silence,
for our souls are restless
until they find their rest in God.

Into this holy presence, known only in silence,
let us come before the Lord,
our rock and our salvation;
let us find shelter in the lord,
our refuge and our strength.

Let us pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Spoken, traditional words, VU 921)*

As a child turns to a loving caregiver who watches over them, we turn in prayer to you, O God, who are our heavenly parent, our mother,

Our Father, who art in Heaven...

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

Share the peace by typing in the chat box. Or think of one person with whom you would like to share the peace of Christ.

MUSIC Sheep May Safely Graze J.S. Bach

OFFERING *We honour all the ways we give as we dedicate our offering.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

With an offering stone to honour all the ways we give as we dedicate our offering let us pray:

PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF GIFTS AND SELF

**God of abundance, you teach us the dangers
of setting our hearts on earthly riches.**

AWA

**May these offerings be symbols
of our faith in your bounty,
and of our commitment to follow
your call in our lives,**

wherever you may lead. Amen

A single stone placed in the offering plate honours all our gifts.

Donate online: www.graceunitedthornbury.ca, select "Give"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us by Zoom following this service for: **Coffee Hour**

We Go Out to Share God's Love!

HYMN VU 713 I See a New Heaven

Refrain

I see a new heaven,

I see a new earth

As the old one will pass away,

Where the fountain of life flows

and without price goes

to all people who abide in the land.

1.

***There, there on the banks of a river bright and free,
yielding her fruit, firm in her root,
the Tree of Life will be.***

I see a new heaven.

Refrain

***I see a new earth
as the old one will pass away,
where the fountain of life flows
and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.***

2.

***There, there where death dies and our lives are born again,
body and soul, struggling but whole
like flowers after the rain.***

Refrain

***I see a new heaven.
I see a new earth
as the old one will pass away,
where the fountain of life flows
and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.***

3.

***There, there where the darkness brings visions from above.
There where the night, bearing new light,
reveals the promise of love.***

Refrain

***I see a new heaven.
I see a new earth
as the old one will pass away,
where the fountain of life flows
and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.***

4.

***There, there where we work with the love of healing hands.
Labour we must, true to our trust
to build a promised new land.***

Refrain

***I see a new heaven.
I see a new earth
as the old one will pass away,
where the fountain of life flows
and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.***

SENDING

TS

Go from this time of worship
with the old songs in your ears,
and a new song in your hearts.

Go from this time knowing that every song you need is within
you and around you.

Go into the world to bring the song
that the world longs to sing.

Go, and may the everlasting song go with you,
now and always.

SUNG BLESSING *Go Now in Peace*
***Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
Know God 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, * within, around, above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.
Amen, amen, amen.***

* alternate words: watching from above
In response to congregation feedback, the Worship Committee has decided that,
a sending or blessing other than Go Now in Peace will be sung one Sunday a
Month.

POSTLUDE Sonata in E Flat Major 1st Mov't Haydn

COFFEE HOUR Join us via Zoom for community time.
The Zoom Link was sent in the eblast.

RESOURCES USED:

LITURGY SOURCES: The following are used with permission:

- Affirmation of Faith: **"A New Creed,"** The United Church of Canada, General Council 1968, alt. 1998
- Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession, Invitation to the Word, Prayers of the People, Prayer of Dedication by B.J. Beu from The Abington Worship Annual 2021.
- Sending: Thérèse Samuel, 2020.
- Sermon: Thérèse Samuel, 2021.

Hymns and Sung Verses:

- Psalm Refrain:

Robert Batastini

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