

St. John the Divine Anglican Church



Sunday January 31st , 2021
The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Service of the Word

We gather on the unceded territory of the Squamish Nation

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Diocese of New Westminster
ANGELICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

*Take a deep breath.
And again.*

The Gathering of the Community

Leader The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all

All: And also with you.

Leader Let us pray.

All We thank you, O God, that you have again brought us together on the Lord's Day to praise you for your goodness and to ask your blessing. Give us grace to see your hand in the week that is past, and your purpose in the week to come; through Christ our Lord. Amen

Leader Dear friends in Christ,
as we turn our hearts and minds
to worship almighty God,
let us confess our sins.

**All Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Leader 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 forever. **Amen**

Leader May the Peace of God be with you.

All And also with you.

Rejoice today with one accord,
Sing out with exultation;
Rejoice and praise our mighty Lord,
Whose arm hath brought salvation;
His works of love proclaim
The greatness of His name;
For He is God alone
Who hath His mercy shown;
Let all His saints adore Him!

When in distress to Him we cried,
He heard our sad complaining;
O trust in Him, whate'er betide,
His love is all sustaining;
Triumphant songs of praise
To Him our hearts shall raise;
Now every voice shall say,
O praise our God alway;
Let all His saints adore Him!

*Text: Henry William Baker
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The Collect of the Day

Propers Working Group (2015)

God of liberation, who comes not to destroy but to set us free, bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: Reading Deuteronomy 18:15-20

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the

mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak - that prophet shall die."

Psalm 111

Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.
Great are the deeds of the Lord!
they are studied by all who delight in them.
His work is full of majesty and splendour,
and his righteousness endures for ever.
He makes his marvellous works to be remembered;
the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.
He gives food to those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.
He has shown his people the power of his works
in giving them the lands of the nations.
The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice;
all his commandments are sure.
They stand fast for ever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.
He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant for ever;
holy and awesome is his name.
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures for ever.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him. Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth - as in fact there are many gods and many lords - yet for us there is one God, the

Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Acclamation: Alleluia

CP #712

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, Jesus 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.

Sermon

The Apostle's Creed

Leader Let us confess our faith as we say,

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin
Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

The Prayers of the People

Offertory Hymn: Dear God, Compassionate and Kind

CP455

455 Dear God, Compassionate and Kind

Unison

1 Dear God, com - pas - sion - ate and kind, for - give our
 2 In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, be - side the
 3 O Sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee! O calm of
 4 Drop thy still dews of qui - et - ness till all our
 5 Breathe through the heats of our de - sire thy cool - ness

fool - ish ways. Re - clothe us in our right - ful
 Syr - ian sea, the gra - cious call - ing of the
 hills a - bove, where Je - sus knelt to share with
 striv - ings cease; take from our souls the strain and
 and thy balm; let sense be dumb, let flesh re -

mind, in pur - er lives thy ser - vice find, in
 Lord, let us, like them, with - out a word, rise
 thee the si - lence of e - ter - ni - ty in -
 stress, and let our or - dered lives con - fess the
 tire; speak through the earth - quake, wind, and fire, O

deep - er rev - erence, praise, in deep - er rev - erence, praise.
 up and fol - low thee, rise up and fol - low thee!
 ter - pret - ed by love, in - ter - pret - ed by love!
 beau - ty of thy peace, the beau - ty of thy peace.
 still small voice of calm, O still small voice of calm.

Text: John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892), alt.
 Music: Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918).

86 886 with repeat
 REPTON
 Alt. setting 466

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Leader Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,
All **Our Father in heaven,**
 hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
 your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

Leader Glory to God
All **whose power, working in us,**
 can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
 Glory to God from generation to generation,
 in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen

Leader May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power
All of the Holy Spirit.
 Amen.

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St. John the Divine Prayers for January 31st, 2021

The Church

- The Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and the Yukon
- The Diocese of British Columbia – Bishop-Elect Anna Greenwood-Lee
- The Diocese of Caledonia - The Right Reverend David Lehmann
- The Diocese of Kootenay - The Right Reverend Lynne McNaughton

The Territory of the People – The Right Reverend Lincoln McKoen

The Diocese of New Westminster & Metropolitan – The Most Reverend Melissa Skelton, Bishop Coadjutor-Elect John Stephens

The Diocese of the Yukon - The Right Reverend Lesley Wheeler-Dame

St. John the Divine, Squamish – The Reverend Cameron Gutjahr

Immediate Prayer Requests

Clive, Nina, Bev, Ed, Rob, Jessica, Susan, Eleanor, Lori, The Howe Sound Women's Centre, the residents of Hilltop House, the residents of Shannon Falls and the patients of Squamish General Hospital.

In this time of COVID-19, we pray for all who are sick, for all who are grieving, for health care professionals, researchers and emergency personnel.

Reflection by Rev. Cameron

This week I had a little reflect on the second half of that middle part of the Apostles' Creed. This part is one that is sometimes hard – a little “woo woo” for some rational, scientific minds. However, I find that this is less and less the case for me – I'm allowing myself to believe in more impossible things. I think it might even be good for me. Wherever you are with believing in impossible things, this part still says something beautiful, at least to me, about the God that I believe in, that I trust.

On the third day he rose again.

Jesus died. However, that's not where the story ends. The central narrative of the Christian story is not a tragedy, but a comedy (in the sense of a Greek play). This is the narrative that I have hitched my narrative to, in the words of Desmond Tutu, that “goodness is stronger than evil, love is stronger than hate, light is stronger than darkness, and life is stronger than death.”

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

The story of Christ's ascension is important for me, because it communicates the transition of Christ from the particular to the universal, connecting the person living in one place and time, to every place and every time. I follow God, who is both infinitely knowable and unknowable – the Rabbi of Nazareth and the cosmic Christ.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

What I see in this is that we have not been abandoned by God, even when it might feel like that is the case. We are on a journey whose end is God, whose love for both the living and the dead will continue eternally. 'Judge' used to be a bit of a scary word for me in this part, but I think that that is because I have only been able to imagine a judge who is as understanding and merciful as me and those I know. However, the God I trust and believe in is abounding in steadfast love and mercy, and so maybe judgement is not something I have to fear.

I think that's all I have to say on that for today. Only one more part of the Apostles' Creed left. I'm looking forward to it!

Thank you, and thanks be to God!

CG+