

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

**The Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany
February 7th, 2021**

Thank you for Connecting for Worship

Today's Leadership includes

Preacher: The Rev. Bill Booth

Presiding: The Rev. Tim Bowman & The Rev. Tracy Fairfield

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 all
Land Acknowledgement Bill**

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: Tracy

As individuals, as a group, as a community of faith spread in various directions, we gather to listen.

To communicate. To worship.

To pray. To be with God.

We come together to celebrate our commitment to embrace and honour diversity of colour and sexual orientation. We gather as loving people.

Because we know – it is out of God's authority, it is out of God's love, that we live.

Alleluia!

(Written by Richard Bott. Gathering A/C/E 2020/21. Pg. 45. Used with permission.)

Opening Prayer: Tim

Wisdom Spirit, You inhabit all things. Even those things that the world considers unclean recognize You, and You free them.

We come to You unclean, each of us with spirits inhabiting us that we would rather not acknowledge:

Spirits of prejudice, of apathy, of arrogance, of disdain, of carelessness. Spirits we may clothe in a body meant to be righteous even as we mistake some of your sacred creation as unworthy and call it unclean.

Breath of Life, call out all of our unclean spirits, spirits that recognize you even as we struggle with them. Free us from all those things that stop us from seeing the glory of your whole, holy creation.

Wisdom Spirit, give us eyes to notice the diverse, rainbow beauty of your world, of promises made to invite inclusion, and embrace diversity. Give us the opportunity to embrace our black brothers and sisters and their rich heritage they have to offer. To have hearts that feel with those who are persecuted, and downtrodden. May this be a space where we share our voices in praise and encouragement, and use our hands to offer to anyone in need.

And as we pray, we know that our prayers are heard and answered, that we never walk alone, and that your healing grace is all we need, as your whole and holy people. In the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

(Written, and adapted, by Anna Atkinson. Gathering A/C/E 2020/21, pg. 46. Used with permission.)

Hymn: “Draw the Circle Wide” MV 145

***Chorus: Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, Draw the circle wide.***

*God the still point of the circle round whom all creation turns;
Nothing lost, but held forever, in God’s gracious arms.*

Chorus

*Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small;
Let our loving know no borders, faithful to God’s call.*

Chorus

*Let the dreams we dream be larger, than we’ve ever dreamed before;
Let the dream of Christ be in us, open every door.*

Chorus

Time with our Children: Tim

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:

Isaiah 40:21 – 31

- ²¹ Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
- ²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
- ²³ who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
²⁵ To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.
²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?
²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
³¹ but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

Mark 1:29 – 39

Jesus Heals Many at Simon’s House

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹ He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³² That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴ And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

A Preaching Tour in Galilee

³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” ³⁸ He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” ³⁹ And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Bill

Hymn: “Come Touch our Hearts” MV 12

*Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,
from failing embers build a blazing fire;
love strong enough to overturn injustice,
to seek a world more gracious,
come touch and bless our hearts.*

*Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,
your quiet presence all our fears dispel;
create a space for spirit to grow in us,
let life and beauty fill us,
come touch and bless our souls.*

*Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,
set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;
help us to open doors of understanding,
to welcome truth and wisdom,
come touch and bless our minds.*

*Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,
and in our weakness your great strength reveal;
that we may rise to follow and to serve,
steady now our nerve,
come touch and bless our wills.*

*Come touch us now, this people who are gathered,
to break the bread and share the cup of peace;
that we may love you with our heart,
our soul, our mind, our strength, our all,
come touch us with your grace.*

WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND ACTION

Prayer of response to the Call: Tracy

Searching-and-Seeking God, You alone are aware of the very deepest of the shadowed and secret places of our hearts. Those are the places that hold words we have feared to share aloud because they tell a story of turning away from you and from and from others, instead of turning towards the places of hurtful word, good deeds left undone, sin-filled chaos and misery in this world. Forgive us for all these wrongs and shortcomings, Eternal One. We seek your mercy and forgiveness as we try to uplift those whom we try to embrace those on the margins, with compassion and inclusion. Our source of strength and our refuge, to you we now our silent confession:

Silent Reflection

Words of Assurance: Tracy

Receive the good news. When we come to God just as we are, honest, broken, and afraid, we will be met with the open, loving arms of our Merciful Redeemer. God is noticing us, listening, forgiving, and loving us, each and every day. Our Compassionate God holds honest and straightforward hearts tightly wrapped in gracious love. Thanks and praise be to God. Amen.

(Written by Allison Abbott-Wiebe. Gathering A/C/E 2020-21, pg. 48. Used with permission.)

Prayers of the People and all the World: Tracy

Prayers shared from the chat: Tim

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: "The Servant Song" VU 595

*We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travelers on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.*

*Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.*

*I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.*

*I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.*

*When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.*

*Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.*

Blessing and Sending Forth: Bill

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

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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