**Lent 2- March 5, 2023 -Zion, Philipsburg**

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We acknowledge the Anishinabewaki, Mississauga’s, and Neutral peoples, the traditional custodians of the land on which we are worshiping today. We acknowledge that they have occupied and cared for this land over countless generations, We remember their love of this land and seek a new relationship based in honour and deep respect.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who journeys with us these forty days,

and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God’s mercy. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**we confess to you our faults and failings.** **Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;** **we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;** **we spoil rather than steward your creation;** **we cause hurt though you call us to heal;** **we choose fear over compassion.** **Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,** **as we seek to follow in your way of life.** **Amen.**

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy,

☩ forgives you in Christ’s name, and revives you in the Spirit’s power. **Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG*This Is the Spirit's Entry Now* ELW 448**

1 This is the Spirit's entry now:  
the water and the word,  
the cross of Jesus on your brow,  
the seal both felt and heard.  
  
2 This miracle of life reborn  
comes from the Lord of breath;  
the sinless one from life was torn;  
our life comes through his death.

3 Let water be the sacred sign  
that we must die each day  
to rise again by his design  
as foll'wers of his way.  
  
4 Renewing Spirit, hear our praise  
for your baptismal pow'r  
that washes us through all our days.  
Come, cleanse again this hour

**ANNOUNCMENTS**

Welcome to worship on this 2nd Sunday of Lent, March 5. March came in like a bit of a lion on Friday night, there was lots of snow to shovel.

We welcome into the world Oakland Haffner, son of Denise and Rory on Thursday March 2. Proud grandparents are Bob and Yvonne Heipel, and proud great grandpa is David Doering.

We remember John Herber in our prayers this morning. John was a member of Zion, St. Agatha. He passed away earlier this week.

All are invited to attend the midweek Lenten services at Trinity, NH Thursdays from 5:30-7:00. We begin with a soup supper at 5:30, the service begins at 6:30. I will be preaching on Thursday night.

A reminder that there will be a presentation on Liberian Refugee sponsorship next Sunday at the beginning of the service by Becki Larson, more info is in the bulletin and in the email that went out yesterday.

The basket of donations is filling up downstairs for Freeport. Thank you to all who have donated so far.

Murray- new furnace for basement

**GREETING (ELW p. 138)**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**KYRIE*Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved:* (ELW 602)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 142)**

Let us pray.

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a**

A reading from Genesis.

*God’s call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.*

1The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. 2I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” 4aSo Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 121**

1I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?  
 2**My help comes from the Lord,** **the maker of heaven and earth.**  
 3The Lord will not let your **|** foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.  
 4**Behold, the keeper of Israel** **will neither slumber nor sleep;**  
 5the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;  
 6**the sun will not strike you by day,** **nor the moon by night.**  
 7The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.  
 8**The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in,** **from this time forth forevermore.**

**SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

A reading from Romans.

*In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God’s promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.*

1What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? 2For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” 4Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. 5But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.  
 13For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. 14If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. 15For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.  
 16For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, 17as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION : Return to the Lord your God. (ELW p. 142)**

**GOSPEL: John 3:1-17**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” 3Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” 4Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” 5Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ 8The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” 9Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” 10Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?  
 11“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. 12If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.  
 16“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.  
 17“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON (ELW p. 143)**

*The assembly is seated.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY*God Loved the World (ROCKINGHAM OLD)* (ELW 323)**

1 God loved the world so that he gave  
his only Son the lost to save,  
that all who would in him believe  
should everlasting life receive.  
  
2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,  
who was made flesh and suffered death;  
all who confide in Christ alone  
are built on this chief cornerstone.  
3 If you are ill, if death draws near,  
this truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus rescues us from death;  
that is the firmest ground of faith.  
  
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son  
forgives all sins that you have done,  
and justified by Jesus' blood,  
your baptism grants the highest good.  
  
5 All glory to the Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To you, O blessed Trinity,  
be praise now and eternally!

**INSTALLATION OF LEADERS IN THE CONGREGATION (***The assembly is seated. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.)*

The following people have been *elected*[by the congregation] to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these *sisters and brothers*will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

*The offices and names of those who are to be installed are read by a representative of the congregation.*

*A reading from First Corinthians:* There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. *(1 Corinthians 12:4-7)*

You have been *elected*to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

*The presiding minister addresses those being installed.*

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been *elected*?

*Response:*I will, and I ask God to help me.

*The assembly stands. Those being installed face the assembly. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your *elected*leaders,

and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized? **We will, and we ask God to help us.**

*Those being installed face the presiding minister, who addresses them.*

I now declare you installed as *council members*of this congregation. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ. **Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Sustained by God’s abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

O God, you so love your church. Raise up leaders who care for your people. Bless lay theologians, seminary and college professors, and all who are called to the ministry of teaching, that they form and inspire us for the work of the gospel. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your creation. Breathe new life into our planetary home. Guide the work of researchers, scientists, and activists who love your earth and who inspire us to care for the natural world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression. Strengthen organizations that promote peace and harmony. Direct their work to alleviate human suffering and to address its root causes. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your people. Draw near to all who live with mental illness, depression, or addiction, and accompany them in healing and recovery. Hear the cries of all who struggle with illness or injury *especially* Sarah, Chris, John, Vivian, Stuart, Edna, Susan, Marg, Marlene, Felix, Nancy Ann, Jean, Hilde, Denise, Rory and baby Oakland, our members in long term care Esther, Robert, Rob, and Evelyn, and those we name out loud or in the silence of our hearts ( good pause). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your children. Bless all that delight us with their joy, wonder, and curiosity. Revive our ministries with children and youth and equip us all for faithful discipleship. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your saints. As our ancestors in the faith have been a blessing to us, so inspire us by their example of holy living to be a blessing to those who come after us. We remember John Herber. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 143)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERING*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* (ELW 885)**

**OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 144)**

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**DIALOGUE (ELW p. 144)**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

 Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**PREFACE (ELW p. 144)**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 144)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,** **God of pow’r and might,** **heaven and earth are full of your glory.** **Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.** **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.** **Hosanna in the highest.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God,

our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you. You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock. We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world. Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

**LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 145)**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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,** **and the power, and the glory,** **forever and ever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

**COMMUNION (ELW p. 146)**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**COMMUNION SONG LAMB OF GOD (ELW p. 146)**

**COMMUNION HYMN- 592, 451**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 146)**

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**BLESSING**

God, the giver of love, ☩ Christ, the resurrection and the life,

and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG*Lift High the Cross* (ELW 660)**

Refrain  
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.  
  
1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,  
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Refrain  
  
2 All newborn servants of the Crucified  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. Refrain  
  
3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. Refrain  
  
4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve in love.

**Thanks be to God.**

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