**3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY- JANUARY 21, 2024, ZION, PHILIPSBURG**

**GATHERING**

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

**GATHERING SONG*I Love to Tell the Story* (ELW 661)**

1 I love to tell the story  
of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory,  
of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story,  
because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings  
as nothing else would do.  
  
Refrain  
I love to tell the story;  
'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.  
  
2 I love to tell the story:  
how pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it,  
more wonderfully sweet!  
I love to tell the story,  
for some have never heard  
the message of salvation  
from God's own holy word. Refrain  
  
3 I love to tell the story,  
for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting  
to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory,  
I sing the new, new song,  
I'll sing the old, old story  
that I have loved so long. Refrain

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

welcome to worship on this 3rd Sunday after epiphany, January 21, 2024. Some chilly weather this week, but also some sun….

Today we welcome John Coleman into membership at Zion by transfer from Holy Trinity, Kitchener. Lorena is involved at Holy Trinity and will attend Zion as able. Father Joel from Holy Trinity mentioned to John that we are all a part of Christ’s family, and I completely agree. We are grateful for your presence whenever you can be here. We are grateful for each and everyone member of our congregation!

Welcome John and Lorena!

Worship and Music meets online this week on Wednesday at 7:30.

Any other announcements?

**GREETING (ELW p. 184)**

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 (ELW p. 184)**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE*Now the Feast and Celebration* (ELW 167)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 188)**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**WORD**

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

**FIRST READING: Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

A reading from Jonah.

*The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah’s dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question “On whom should God have mercy?”*

1The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, 2“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” 3So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. 4Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” 5And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.  
 10When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 62:5-12**

5For God alone I wait in silence; truly, my hope is in God.  
 6**God alone is my rock and my salvation,** **my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.**  
 7In God is my deliverance and my honor; God is my strong rock and my refuge.  
 8**Put your trust in God always, O people,** **pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.**  
 9Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted. Placed on the scales together they weigh even less **|** than a breath.  
 10**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;** **though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**  
 11God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, that power belongs to God.  
 12**Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord,** **for you repay all according to their deeds.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

*Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God’s future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

29Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, 30and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, 31and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 188)**

**GOSPEL: Mark 1:14-20**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

14Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, 15and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”  
  
 16As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. 17And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” 18And immediately they left their nets and followed him. 19As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. 20Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON (ELW p. 189)**

**HYMN OF THE DAY*How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord* (ELW 580)**

1 How clear is our vocation, Lord,  
when once we heed your call  
to live according to your word  
and daily learn, refreshed, restored,  
that you are Lord of all,  
and will not let us fall.  
  
2 But if, forgetful, we should find  
your yoke is hard to bear;  
if worldly pressures fray the mind  
and life itself cannot unwind  
its tangled skein of care:  
our inward life repair.  
  
3 We marvel how your saints become  
in hindrances more sure;  
whose joyful virtues put to shame  
the casual way we wear your name,  
and by our faults obscure  
your pow'r to cleanse and cure.  
  
4 In what you give us, Lord, to do,  
together or alone,  
in old routines or ventures new,  
may we not cease to look to you,  
the cross you hung upon,  
all you endeavored done.

**CREED (ELW p. 189)**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,** **creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,** **born of the virgin Mary,**

**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,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come 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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

God our rock and deliverance, do not let your church be shaken. We trust that you never abandon your promises to the most vulnerable among us. Give your church wisdom and empathy in its varied ministries. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God our hope and refuge, you placed the fish in the sea. Guide our care of oceans and all creatures that live in them. Hold us accountable for actions that endanger water sources and the people who depend on them. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God who proclaims judgement and offers mercy, be a model to the leaders of our nation and the world. As they lead, may they follow in your way of justice and truth. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God who cares for the suffering, care for survivors of assault and sexual abuse and sustain all who minister to them. Keep safe any who live under threat of violence, those living in poverty, and any among us who are ill or in pain with injury or disease *especially* Chris, Vivian, Felix, Elizabeth, Zoli, Nick, Jill, our members in long term care Robert, Bea, Evelyn and Rob, and those we name either out loud or in the silence of our hearts. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God, who prayed that all might be one, we pray for the unity of all Christians,

according to your will, according to your means. May your Spirit enable us to end the suffering caused by division, expose our sin, and to hope beyond all hope. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection and new life, as the first disciples shared the good news, empower us and this faith community to be open to your call. When we are uncertain of your call, assure us. When we have strayed from your ways, redirect us. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

God who holds the saints against your tender bosom, we trust you welcome them into your care. Comfort those who grieve, even as we place our hope in your salvation. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 189)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY- DOXOLOGY (ELW 885)**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**DIALOGUE (ELW p. 190)**

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. 190)**

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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. 190)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,** **God of pow’r and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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 preaching and healing, his dying and rising,

and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

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. 191)**

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**

At Jesus’ table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

**COMMUNION SONG – LAMB OF GOD (ELW p. 191)**

**COMMUNION HYMNS- #810, #696**

**COMMUNION (ELW p. 191)**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Giver of every gift, Christ’s body is our food, and we are Christ’s body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

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

**BLESSING**

God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,

☩ bless you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG*Sent Forth by God's Blessing* (ELW 547)**

1 Sent forth by God's blessing,  
our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended.  
Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of Christ's teaching,  
receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
Your grace shall incite us,  
your love shall unite us  
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.  
2 With praise and thanksgiving  
to God ever-living,  
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face--  
our faith ever sharing,  
in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children, the whole human race.  
With your feast you feed us,  
with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living  
with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are God’s beloved.

**Thanks be to God.**

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