**GATHERING**

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

Good morning!

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** ***Here We Are: inspired by 1 Samuel 3***

God whispers to each of us: you are my beloved, created in love for love.

**My spirit answers, Here I am, Lord. Speak to me anew.**

God breathes on us the Holy Spirit, knitting many members into one body,

the body of Christ.

**Together we answer, Here we are Lord. Come, Holy Spirit.**

God has yet more vision for the people. Who will work for God to extend God’s kingdom into our hurting world?

**Here we are Lord. Empower us for your work.**

God calls the small and helps them do great things. God calls the weak and reveals their hidden gifts. God calls the rejected and opens their eyes to their worth.

**Here we are Lord, humble and waiting.**

Then let us gather, old and young, small, and great, to dream God’s dreams, receive God’s power, and do God’s deeds.

**Here we are Lord. Shine the light of your love on us. Kindle your Spirit within us. Work your redeeming will in us, that all the world may be one through the power of your love. Amen.**

~ written by David Inglis. Posted on the Henrietta United Church of Christ website. <http://www.henriettaucc.org/PastorsPage/CallsToWorship.shtml>.

**GATHERING SONG*Dearest Jesus, at Your Word* (ELW 520)**

1 Dearest Jesus, at your word  
we have come again to hear you;  
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred  
and in glowing faith be near you  
as the promises here given  
draw us wholly up to heaven.  
  
2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight  
lie in deepest darkness shrouded  
till your Spirit breaks the night,  
filling us with light unclouded.  
All good thoughts and all good living  
come but by your gracious giving.  
  
3 Radiance of God's glory bright,  
Light of light from God proceeding,  
Jesus, send your blessed light;  
help our hearing, speaking, heeding,  
that our prayers and songs may please you,  
as with grateful hearts we praise you.  
  
4 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
praise to you and adoration!  
Grant us what we need the most:  
all your gospel's consolation  
while we here on earth await you,  
till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Welcome to worship on this Second Sunday after Epiphany, January 14, 2024.

We had some wintery weather this week. If all that rain would have been snow, there would have been much digging out!

Council meets this week to begin preparations for the 2024 budget. Annual Committee reports are due on Thursday by day’s end.

Altar Guild members please check your boxes for the 2024 monthly duties list.

You will notice in your bulletin that we are looking for a birthday card writer. Our current card writer has been doing it for 10 years. It is not a difficult job and is a wonderful way to share ministry with our members. Please speak to me if you are interested.

Today we welcome into membership at Zion, John Coleman. John and Lorena are familiar faces in our congregation. John has transferred his membership from Holy Trinity Anglican church in Kitchener. Lorena will retain her membership at Holy Trinity and attend here when able. We give thanks for their faith and love of Philipsburg and look forward to sharing God’s peace and love together.

Any other announcements?

**GREETING (ELW p. 213)**

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. 213)**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 213)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 215)**

Let us pray.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**WORD**

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

**FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]**

A reading from 1 Samuel.

*At a time when visions are rare and unexpected, the Lord comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word. Though just a boy, Samuel responds to God obediently, as Eli the priest has taught him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel’s prophetic ministry.*

1Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.  
 2At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; 3the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. 4Then the Lord called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” 5and ran to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. 6The Lord called again, “Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” 7Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. 8The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. 9Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’ ” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.  
 10Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” [11Then the Lord said to Samuel, “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. 12On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. 13For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. 14Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.”  
 15Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. 16But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.” 17Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” 18So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.”  
 19As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. 20And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.]

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18**

1Lord, you have searched me out; O Lord, you have known me.  
 2**You know my sitting down and my rising up;** **you discern my thoughts from afar.**  
 3You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways.  
 4**Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,** **but you, O Lord, know it altogether.**  
 5You encompass me, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.  
 6**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;** **it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**  
 13For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.  
 14**I will thank you because I am marvellously made;** **your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**  
 15My body was not hidden from you, while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.  
 16**Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book;** **my days were fashioned before they came to be.**  
 17How deep I find your thoughts, O God! How great is the sum of them!  
 **18If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;  
  to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20**

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

*Paul helps the Corinthians understand that God has claimed the entirety of their lives through the death of Christ. Hence Christian relationships and conduct, including areas of human sexuality, are to reflect the reality that we belong to Christ and that the Holy Spirit lives within us.*

12“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. 13“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 14And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. 15Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! 16Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” 17But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. 18Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. 19Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 216)**

**GOSPEL: John 1:43-51**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

43The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” 44Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” 46Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” 47When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” 48Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” 49Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” 50Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” 51And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON (ELW p. 217)**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY*Here I Am, Lord* (ELW 574)**

1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?"  
  
Refrain  
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.  
  
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?" Refrain  
  
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?" Refrain

**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.*

Encourage the ministry and mission of the church, God of truth. Let the leaders of your church be trustworthy and accountable stewards, that all its resources and outreach bring hope and healing to communities. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Delight in the goodness of your creation, God of fig trees and fertile soil. Heal areas of the world harmed by human greed. Restore those recovering from natural disaster. Protect our forests and waterways and all the creatures that live in them. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Call the leaders of every neighborhood and nation to serve faithfully, God of wisdom. Give them visions of justice and unity. Lead them to action that promotes equitable partnership and uplifts those on the margins of society. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Hold in your care any who suffer and struggle, God of compassion. You who know our inner hearts, be present with any who are oppressed, victims of racism or cultural bias, and all who long for respite or restoration from illness, injury, or grief *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.**

Give this congregation the anticipation and excitement of Samuel, so inspired and empowered to do your work in the world, God of unity. Make us faithful as we build communities of inclusion and mutual care. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Trusting God who raised Jesus and will also raise us in spirit and truth, we remember all who have died and are at peace among the saints. 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. 217)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY- *Create in Me A Clean Heart* (ELW 186)**

**offering prayer**

Blessed are you, 0 Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING (ELW p. 219)**

**THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD - *Time after Epiphany***

Holy God, Light of the universe, Teacher of truth, Giver of goodness, we hear your Word in the scriptures, proclaiming to us your wisdom and inviting us to follow your call. For speaking this Word, we thank you, O God.

Your Word came among us in Jesus, our brother, who preached your righteousness, healed the sick, and revived the brokenhearted. For giving us this Word, we worship you, O God.

By your Spirit, bless all who receive this Word, that upheld by the mystery of the body of Christ, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

For sustaining us with your Word, we praise you, O God.

Blessed are you, holy God, around us, with us, and in us, now and forever. **Amen.**

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**LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 221)**

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.**

**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*Listen, God Is Calling*(ELW 513)**

Refrain  
(Listen,) listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,  
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.  
(Listen,) listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,  
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.

1 (Jesus gave his mandate:)  
share the good news  
(that he came to save us)  
and set us free. Refrain  
  
2 (Let none be forgotten)  
throughout the world.  
(In the triune name of God)  
go and baptize. Refrain  
  
3 (Help us to be faithful,)  
standing steadfast,  
(walking in your precepts,)  
led by your Word. Refrain

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are God’s beloved.

**Thanks be to God.**

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