



Epiphany 5 Yr A – 5th February 2023
Communion

Leader ; **Alison** Greeter : **Heather**

Meditation Hymn: Oh, Lord hear my prayer

Oh, Lord hear my prayer
Oh, Lord hear my prayer
When I call answer me
Oh, Lord hear my prayer
Oh, Lord hear my prayer
Come and listen to me

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Welcome:

Welcome to the 5th Sunday in Epiphany

Greeting:

May the Lord be with you

And also with you

Moment of Stillness: *As we begin our service, let's take a moment to be still and aware of God's presence within and all around us.*

Christ Candle:

We light this light to remind us that the Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

Acknowledgement First Peoples:

As we gather to worship God, we acknowledge the First Peoples of this country on which we gather today; the Gadigal and Wangal people. And we pay our respects to their Elders past and present, together with all descendants.

We commit ourselves to support Voice, Treaty, Truth – justice for First Nations Peoples.

Call to Worship

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
the downtrodden and despairing,
They will rejoice in God's reign forever.

Blessed are those who mourn and
who are grieving
They will be comforted in God's reign forever.

Blessed are the ones who seek
justice and righteousness
They will find it in God's reign forever.

Blessed are we when we love our
neighbors and seek their needs
We will live in God's reign forever.

Blessed are we all when we seek to serve
others in God's name.

Let us worship together, serving one another and serving our Mighty God.

Amen

Opening Prayer

God of compassion and justice,
the worship you choose for us is to loose
the bonds of injustice,
to let the oppressed go free,
to share bread with the hungry,
to shelter the homeless and the poor.

Then your light shall break forth like the
dawn and your healing shall spring up
quickly.

So in praise and wonder, we come to
worship you not just with our words
but with our hearts and our lives.
Glory and honour be to you, O God,
Creator of a new heaven and a new earth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Song: Crown Him with many crowns

1. Crown Him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon His throne.
Hark how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake my soul and sing
of Him who died for thee,
and hail Him as thy chosen king
throughout eternity.

2. Crown Him the Lord of Life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those He came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died and rose on high,

who dies eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

3. Crown him the Lord of years,
the owner of all time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, redeemer, hail,
for Thou has died for me.
Thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

Prayer of confession:

God of Light,
we confess that we have gone astray and have left Your light.
We follow the dim lights of the world of success and fortune.
We follow the dim lights that call us
to be more religious by following rules.
We follow the fading light of personal salvation.
Forgive us for not seeking the true Light
of Your love for all the world.
Forgive us for not following the ways of Jesus,
who commanded us to love one another.
Call us to be light-bearers of love, compassion and justice,
in which the Mystery of Your Love is revealed.
In the name of Jesus the Messiah, we pray.

Amen

Words of assurance:

The Light has come. The Light has come and has put out the darkness.
Now we can walk in the light.
You are loved by God and called to walk with God in the light.

Hear then Christ's words of grace to us:
"Your sins are forgiven."

Thanks be to God

Amen

Peace:

Let us be salt and light to each other,
giving and receiving forgiveness in the name of Christ.
The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let's share Christ's peace with one
another

Hymn : God of freedom, God of justice

1. God of freedom, God of justice,
you whose love is strong as death,
you who saw the dark of prison,
you who knew the price of faith --
touch our world of sad oppression
with your Spirit's healing breath.

2. Rid the earth of torture's terror,
you whose hands were nailed to wood;
hear the cries of pain and protest,
you who shed the tears and blood --
move in us the power of pity
restless for the common good.

3. Make in us a captive conscience
quick to hear, to act, to plead;
make us truly sisters, brothers
of whatever race or creed --
teach us to be fully human,
open to each other's needs.

Moment for the young at heart: Graham

Bible Readings: Roger Thompson
Isaiah 58:1-12 NRSV

False and True Worship

58 Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

2 Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side.

3 “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers.

4 You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

5 Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

6 Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

9 Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.” If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

Matthew 5:13–20 NRSV

Salt and Light

13 “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

14 “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

The Law and the Prophets

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Brian Lenehan

***Moment of Stillness:** Let's take a moment to be still and aware of God's presence within and all around us.*

Prayers of the People: John Read

The Lord's Prayer:

**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 in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours.
Now and forever.
Amen**

Communion Hymn: Gather Us In

1. Here in this place, new light is streaming,

now is the darkness, vanished away,
see, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2. We are the young, our lives are a mystery;
we are the old, who yearn for your face,
we have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

3. Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat, the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven light years away,
but here in this space, the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, now is the day.

Gather us in, and hold us forever;
gather us in, and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Communion: Rev Carolyn Thornley

May God be with you

And also with you.

Lift your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the God we love.

We freely give God thanks and praise.

It is right and meet, beautiful and holy
that we should, in ceaseless joy,
give our thanks and praise to you,
Holy and merciful God,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

And so, in grateful procession of endless praise
with the church that is, was, and shall be forever,
we glorify you, joining this unending song:

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of steadfast love.

All creation waits in trust for you.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who brings the kingdom near.

Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, Eternal One.

You sit above, through, within the circle of the earth
setting light into being, casting the stars in the sky,
founding the evolving earth and all that dwell within it.
Limitless is your power and great is your wisdom.

You look upon the lowly as your most cherished creatures.
You visit upon the downtrodden
with presence, grace, and the promise of eternal justice.
You sent to us your own child, Jesus,
who reached into unexpected places,
calling women beyond the limits of their times,
equipping men for nurturing love,
welcoming children into your holy embrace.

And so we recall that on the night of betrayal and desertion
the light of the world took bread, broke it
and gave it to the disciples, saying:
“This is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And, in like manner, after supper,
Jesus took the cup and after giving thanks give it to them saying,
“This is the cup of the new covenant [in my blood]
poured out for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink of it
for the remembrance of me.”

Life’s greatest feast before us.
We excitedly proclaim:

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again.

Dear God, you transform.
You transform all that is before you
so that at the touch of your grace
we are never the same.

Dear God, you illumine.

You bring light to all peoples, light to the nations,
light into our hearts, light on your Way.

Dear God, we pray for your Spirit.

Transform, illumine, bless.

Make these ordinary gifts of bread and cup
into the extraordinary presence of Christ with us.

**In so doing, hold us as your own,
renew us as your people
for the sake of the world you love.**

For all honor and glory are yours, O God,
through Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in your glorious creation
both now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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 for ever.
Amen.**

Christ is the bread of joy
who shares food with sinners.

Christ is the cup of life
who receives the faint-hearted

**Let us receive what we are
and let us become what we receive
The body of Christ.**

Jesus, firstborn of Mary,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, Saviour of the world,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, monarch of heaven,
grant us peace.

Receive this holy sacrament
of the body and blood of Christ,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

Come for all is prepared.

Let us pray:
**We have been fed, Holy One, by your presence.
We have been led, Eternal One, by your light.
May we bask in this glow
now and forevermore.
Amen.**

Community News:

Offering Prayer:

Source of life and love, we bring these
gifts, symbols of our everyday.

By your Spirit of grace,
move us to use them to bring freedom
from injustice and oppression,
to share our bread with the hungry,
to shelter the homeless
and clothe the naked.as we seek to walk in
the way of Jesus.

Amen.

Hymn: Hallelujah! We sing your praises

Refrain

Hallelujah! We sing your praises,
all our hearts are filled with gladness.
Hallelujah! We sing your praises,
all our hearts are filled with gladness.

1 Christ the Lord to us said:
I am wine, I am bread;
I am wine, I am bread,
give to all who thirst and hunger. [Refrain]

2 Now he sends us all out,
strong in faith, free of doubt;
strong in faith, free of doubt,
tell to all the joyful Gospel. [Refrain]

Benediction & Blessing:

As people of faith we have gathered for
worship.
As people of faith we now return to the
world.
Go out to share the story of faith,
the story of life, with the world around you.
As you go out to give a living witness,
as you go out to testify to God's love active
in the world,

go knowing that God goes with you,
sharing the laughter and the hope, the
fears and the tears.

Thanks be to God!

Amen.

3-fold-amen

Acknowledgements:

Call to worship Rev. Mindi, and posted on Rev-o-lution.

Opening prayer, Rev. Iona MacLean, First Presbyterian Church, Pictou, Nova Scotia, in Change is Happening,

Prayer of confession: Rev. Mindi and posted on her Rev-o-lution

Assurance: adapted from – ministrymatters.com

Communion Liturgy from Rev, Kji Dousa, United Church of Christ

Benediction: Rev Gord, Worship Offerings