

Morning Prayer

Epiphany 4C

January 30, 2022

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=ei94>

[MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=ei94MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zz09)

Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: 782611

Prelude

Announcements

Opening Sentence

The Presider says

I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth. *Isaiah 49:6b*

Opening Hymn

VF 143

Love astounding, love confounding



1 Love a - stound-ing, Love con - found-ing lim-its fear - ful minds im - pose.
2 Love re - ceiv - ing, Love be - liev - ing, we re - joice with thanks and song,



Love re - new-ing, Love pur - su - ing ev - ery heart un - til it knows
faith re - gain-ing, hope pro - claim-ing; Love has taught us, we be - long

Love's trans-form-ing, heal-ing good-ness, Love's a - bid - ing, gen-tle grace,
safe with - in Love's tend-er keep-ing, safe from fear's per - sis - tent call.

Love's en - dur - ance, Love's as - sur - ance, Love's con - sol - ing, strong em-brace.
Love de - fend-ing, Love un - end - ing, Love of God en - fold - ing all.

Confession of Sin

The Presider says to the people

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of the Holy One, to set forth God's praise, to hear God's holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us keep silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence may be kept.

The People's Respondent, the Presider, and the People

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we have sinned against you
 in thought, word, and deed,
 by what we have done,
 and by what we have left undone.
 We have not loved you with our whole heart;
 we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
 We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
 For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
 have mercy on us and forgive us;
 that we may delight in your will,
 and walk in your ways,
 to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Presider says

Almighty God have mercy on you, † forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Invitatory and Psalter

Presider Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Presider and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Christ has shown forth his glory;
O come let us worship.

Invitatory: Venite Psalm 95

1 Come, let us sing to the Holy One; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

**2 Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout with psalms.**

3 For you, O God, are a great God; *
you are great above all gods.

**4 In your hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are yours also.**

5 The sea is yours, for you made it, *
and your hands have molded the dry land.

**6 Come, let us bow down and bend the knee, *
and kneel before God, our Maker,**

7 For you are our God, and we are the people of your pasture and the sheep of your hand. *

Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!

Psalm 71:1-6

to be prayed in unison

**¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; *
let me never be ashamed.**

**²In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; *
incline your ear to me and save me.**
**³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; *
you are my crag and my stronghold.**
**⁴Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, *
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**
**⁵For you are my hope, O Lord GOD, *
my confidence since I was young.**
**⁶I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;
from my mother's womb you have been my strength; *
my praise shall be always of you.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

The Lessons

First Reading

Jeremiah 1:4-10

A Reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

⁴Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,
⁵“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”
⁶Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.”
⁷But the LORD said to me,
“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’;
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.
⁸Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD.”
⁹Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,
“Now I have put my words in your mouth.
¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”

Reader **The Word of the Lord.**
People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 19: The Song of the Redeemed
Magna et mirabilia

Revelation 15:3-4

O ruler of the universe, Lord God,
great deeds are they that you have done, *
surpassing human understanding.

**Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth, *
O King of all the ages.**

Who can fail to do you homage, Lord,
and sing the praises of your Name? *
for you only are the Holy One.

**All nations will draw near and fall down before you, *
because your just and holy works have been revealed.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the
beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

A Reading from Paul's First letter to the Church in Corinth.

¹If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle K: A Song of Our Adoption

Ephesians 1:3-10

Blessed are you, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, *
for you have blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

**Before the world was made, you chose us to be yours in Christ, *
that we should be holy and blameless before you.**

You destined us for adoption as your children through Jesus Christ, *
according to the good pleasure of your will,
To the praise of your glorious grace, *
that you have freely given us in the Beloved.

**In you, we have redemption through the blood of Christ,
the forgiveness of our sins,**

**According to the riches of your grace *
which you have lavished upon us.**

You have made known to us, in all wisdom and insight, *
the mystery of your will,

**According to your good pleasure which you set forth in Christ, *
as a plan for the fullness of time,**

**To gather together all things in Christ, *
things in heaven and things on earth.**

Third Reading

Luke 4:21-30

A Reading from Luke.

²¹[Jesus] began to [speak in the synagogue in Nazareth:] “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?”²³He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’”

²⁴And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. ²⁵But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the

time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon.

²⁷There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.”

²⁸When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage.

²⁹They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of



the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

The People's Respondent, the Presider, and the People

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.**

The Prayers

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

The People's Respondent, the Presider, and the People

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 forever. Amen.**

V. Help us, O God our Savior;
R. Deliver us and forgive us our sins.
V. Look upon your congregation;
R. Give to your people the blessing of peace.
V. Declare your glory among the nations;
R. And your wonders among all peoples.
V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;
R. Never forget the lives of your poor.
V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;
R. And your favor to those who are true of heart.
V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Grace

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for the Renewal of Life

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Mission

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Presider My fellow pilgrims, the Lord is our strong rock, a castle to keep us safe. In confidence, let us pray, "In you, O Lord, have we taken refuge; let us never be ashamed."

Intercessor Increase our love, O God. Deliver your Church from boastfulness and arrogance. Fill us instead with patience and kindness. We pray for our Bishops Bonnie, Michael, Justin, Moises, Elizabeth, Donald and Craig. Bless all ministers, priests, deacons, ministry teams, those in formation; and our brothers and sisters worshipping at St Stephen's, Troy, and Church of the Great Commission, Dona Lila, and St Martha's, Santana, in the Dominican Republic; those in the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean, and for all the members of Christ's body. In you, O Lord, have we taken refuge; **let us never be ashamed.**

Silence is kept.

Increase our love, O God. Deliver this nation from pride and fear. Give us eyes to see your hand at work in all nations and peoples. God, bless the world you have made for your children. In you, O Lord, have we taken refuge; **let us never be ashamed.**

Silence is kept.

Increase our love, O God. May we seek and serve Christ in our neighbors, in family, friends, and strangers. May we care for your creation with the good of all in mind. Thank you [for _____, and] for all your gifts to us. In you, O Lord, have we taken refuge; **let us never be ashamed.**

Silence is kept.

Increase our love, O God. By the power of your great love, heal those who are ill; strengthen those who are struggling to endure sadness or pain. We pray that, as we lift [_____, and] all our brothers and sisters to you in prayer, they will, even now, feel your love. In you, O Lord, have we taken refuge; **let us never be ashamed.**

Silence is kept.

Increase our trust in your love, O God. May [_____ and] all those who have died, find in your presence everlasting and overwhelming love. In you, O Lord, have we taken refuge; **let us never be ashamed.**

Silence is kept.

Presider In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. And since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. **Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.**

The Presider then says

My sisters and brothers, I invite you- wherever you are- to take into your hands the gifts you offer today. Gifts of food, gifts of money, gifts of whatever form, and join me as we offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good our vows to the Most High.

Let us pray.

Loving God and merciful Creator, whose hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: we come to you with thanksgiving and praise. We offer to you this day our gifts of time, talent, and possessions, knowing that all we are, and all we have, is a gift from you. **Please accept these gifts, and help us to reach out to others as you, our God, have reached out to us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: **Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.**

Concluding Hymn

Here in Christ we gather

H 577

Refrain



God is love, and where true love is God him - self is there.

1 Here in Christ we gath - er, love of Christ our call - ing.
2 When we Chris - tians gath - er, mem - bers of one Bo - dy,
3 Grant us love's ful - fill - ment, joy with all the bless - ed,

Christ, our love, is with us, glad - ness be his greet - ing.
let there be in us no dis - cord but one spi - rit.
when we see your face, O Sa - vior, in its glo - ry.

Let us fear and love him, ho - ly God e - ter - nal.
Ban - ished now be an - ger, strife and ev - ery quar - rel.
Shine on us, O pur - est Light of all cre - a - tion,

Repeat Refrain

Lov - ing him, let each love Christ in one an - oth - er.
Christ, our God, be al - ways pres - ent here a - mong us.
be our bliss while end - less a - ges sing your prais - es.

Presider Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God!**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

Postlude

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Due to the abundance and continuing spread of COVID Omicron virus in our county, we will be worshipping **only on Zoom through February 6, 2022**. After that day, the Ministry Support Team will evaluate the situation to make decisions about the days to follow. According to the most recent directive from the Bishops of the state of Michigan (Jan.10, 2022), “masks are required to be worn (covering mouth and nose) for all indoor gatherings.”

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Faith in Action provides leadership in collecting donations of food to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas. They are in need of our continuing help. You may bring your donations to FIA, or to Nancy who will see that they get there. **If you bring food directly to FIA**, please let Nancy know, so she can continue to keep our records of donation. If you write a check, please make it to *Faith In Action*. The **next Food Drive is February 20**. Please contribute as generously as you can. Contributors are asked to take their donations to Nancy’s house rather than leave them at the church; thank you!

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Upcoming Commemorations

- January 31 John Bosco: Priest, 1888; and, Samuel Shoemaker: Priest and Evangelist, 1963
- February 1 Brigid of Kildare, Monastic, c.523
- 2 The Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple
- 3 The Dorchester Chaplains: Lt George Fox, Lt Alexander D. Goode,
Lt Clark V. Poling, and Lt John P. Washington, 1943
- 4 Cornelius the Centurion; and, Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg,
Missionary to Denmark and Sweden, 865
- 5 The Martyrs of Japan, 1597

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Jeremiah 1:4-10

This early part of the Book of Jeremiah details Jeremiah's prophetic call narrative from the Lord. The context for Jeremiah's prophetic call narrative comes out of the Babylonian takeover and exile of the northern kingdom, of which Jeremiah was part, under the reign of Josiah (640 - 609 BC). Out of such brutal destruction, the Lord calls on Jeremiah to be a prophet to the nations – that is, both the northern kingdom in exile and the southern kingdom. This call from the Lord is tender and intimate; the Lord has known and consecrated Jeremiah in his mother's womb, before Jeremiah was even birthed into the world. Despite this tenderness expressed by the Lord, Jeremiah feels a sense of inadequacy in being a prophet for both kingdoms against the extremely powerful and brutal Babylonian Empire. The Lord reminds Jeremiah that he is not alone and that it is the Lord who is with him to guide the nations in his prophetic message.

- Have you ever been overwhelmed by what you felt called to do by God? How was God with you?
- What prophetic message do you think needs to be shared in our own times? Why?

Psalms 71:1-6

The psalmist expresses a fervent plea to God for refuge. However, the plea also expresses the hope that they will not be put to shame in trusting in the Lord's refuge. This is perhaps a way to prick at the honor of God as well, as if to suggest that not only would they be ashamed if God did not come through, but also that God's good name might be shamed. The psalmist clearly lays out the threat of danger and harm from oppressors and asks for three things: (1) refuge; (2) deliverance; and (3) to be set free. In case the appeal to God's good name is not effective, the psalmist then butters up God with a reminder of their faithfulness to God since youth, acknowledging God's sustenance even before birth. The psalmist reminds God that their praise will always be to God.

- What are the ways that you ask God for what you might need? Do you find that easy or difficult? Why?
- How has God been sustaining you since before you were born?

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

This letter from Paul to the church in Corinth is in response to Chloe's report to him about some of the issues arising in their life together as a church. In chapters 8-10, Paul discusses ethics around eating –should one eat the festival food that had been sacrificed to idols? In chapter 11, he advises on head coverings and abuses taking place at Eucharist. In chapter 12, Paul turns toward the meaning of spiritual gifts, because the Corinthians have become arrogant and dismissive toward other community members.

Chapter 13:1-13 offers Paul's vision of what it means to be in community with one another. For Paul, that vision is a community that strives to attain the highest of all spiritual gifts: Love. The

Greek word used here for love is *agape*, the kind of love that originates in God. While not diminishing other forms of love at all, what Paul turns the Corinthians toward is the kind of love for one another that Christ has – love exemplified by caring for the well-being of others, even at great cost. Paul ends with the analogy of growing up in one’s reasoning, making the point that, while we strive toward this Christian love now, we will have a fuller understanding in the next life of what love means with God.

- How does the kind of love that Paul describes here influence how you care for others?
- How does *agape* love help you love better in other ways?
- Have you experienced difficulties in your life together in your community? How did you resolve these?

Luke 4:21-30

In this passage from Luke, Jesus encounters the people in his hometown of Nazareth who seem to doubt his mission. Jesus boldly proclaims that, with his mission, scripture has been fulfilled right at that very moment. This causes some in the crowd to respond with a bit of snark: “Is not this Joseph’s son?” Jesus spars back with two stories of great prophets, Elijah and Elisha, who were sent amid Gentiles that showed greater faith in God than the Israelites. This enrages his hometown crowd with his insinuation that their lack of faith in him is similar.

- Have you experienced feeling misunderstood in your work and ministry?
- In what ways do we label and judge others into narrow categories? How might this harm others in our community?

This study was written by Nicole Hanley.

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Our Mission:

We seek to grow as diverse disciples of Jesus Christ,
and to serve Jesus by serving others in the world, guided by the values of
Ancient Rites, Open Minds, and Affirming Hearts.

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