

February 7, 2020 – At-Home/email worship

A blessed Sabbath to you, and welcome to worship for our Fifth Sunday after Epiphany ☺ Another busy and slightly warm week has passed, and now the cold is back upon us! Thank you to the many disciples who helped with delivery ministry this week by baking, making soup, gifting fruit, writing cards, making calls, and delivering items.

Most of you have now gotten our survey letter for our AGM on March 21st, 2021 which may happen on Zoom, if in-person gathering remains unavailable. **Please carefully follow and respond to this letter, to ensure that you do your part in congregational decision-making, if your membership makes you eligible to vote per our church's constitution:** *"A voting member is one who has been confirmed in this congregation, or received by adult baptism, or received by transfer as confirmed members from another Lutheran congregation or another congregation in full communion with the ELCIC, or received by affirmation of faith as baptized adults. Voting members must have received Holy Communion and have made a contribution of record within the current or preceding calendar year."*

In February, as long as travel remains safe, delivery of home communion kits, doorway and walking visits continue, especially with those who are not able to attend by Zoom. Mindful of the extreme cold, and the fact that I am not entering homes, please do not be offended if the visit at your door is short ☺ **I also would love to know if you have the time and ability to make a few phone calls in a given week, to help keep up our telephone visiting with each other, or to help with card ministry – all ways of remaining connected.** By remaining in community we will vaccinate ourselves against the isolation that COVID is imposing. This vaccine is readily available, no politics involved ☺

This Sunday, your worship service is available to you: in print copy in the week following the Sunday service (if you want to receive print copy, please call Bonnie Scott at the church office, 519-653-4721), as an online service you can go through at your leisure, with music links provided via our St Peter's YouTube channel and as a live, gathering of people for worship on the Zoom video/audio conferencing platform.

For Ash Wednesday, on February 17th, a livestream Synod-Wide service will be made available on Facebook, with Bishop Michael Pryse preaching. By next Sunday, February 14th, I will confirm additional service arrangements, if any. During the season of Lent, we are invited to join a series of Zoom teaching sessions being offered by Rev. Dr. David Maginley, whom a number of our parishioners have experienced as a Spiritual Director and teacher at the Bishop's Lay Spiritual Retreat. The sessions will take place Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm and will run from February 24th to Wednesday, March 24th. St Peter's worship material for Lent will include a fictional story (based on real-life stories), scriptures, and some reflection questions which will then be unpacked during Sunday worship, along with suitable hymns to support our exploration of what unity with Jesus means during the season of Lent.

We are still experimenting on Heide's Zoom service for live online worship. This allows us to gather together for worship from our respective homes. The church is now looking into investing in our own Zoom license.

You don't have to have a computer or internet to connect to any of the Zoom services; you can also just call in on one of these numbers (long distance charges may apply):

**1 587 328 1099 or
1 647 374 4685 or
1 647 558 0588 or
1 778 907 2071 or
1 204 272 7920 or
1 438 809 7799**

Use your telephone keypad to enter the meeting ID and Passcode when asked.

Heide Emrich is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting for Sunday Worship

Feb 7, 2021 09:45 AM

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84230156352?pwd=Q1NaaWY0bEpFRjlyVII1SmxZYXJrZz09>

Meeting ID: 842 3015 6352

Passcode: 998370

If you need a check in with me, please do reach out by email or phone: pastor@st-peters-cambridge.org or 519-653-4721 ☺ Have a blessing filled week, and please do be in touch if I may be of help or support in these times!

- with love, in Christ, Pastor Janaki.

A Word from Lorre:

February is Black History Month and you will notice on our website, <http://stpeterscambridge.com/> that we are trying to feature the accomplishments and contributions to our society by well-know, and less-well-known, people of colour. We are also featuring music from the African American, African Canadian community. If you have any suggestions as to someone we might feature or a song we might provide a link for, please send me an email, lorre.calder@sympatico.ca . We will also try to provide a listing of books, movies, documentaries, online lectures, etc, that you might access throughout the year and not just during this month.

—Lorre Calder

Click for land acknowledgement, email service:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9Zar8-GeUs>

**Please take a few moments of silence,
 prepare your heart,
 centre yourself for worship.**

Gathering Hymn: #723 Canticle of the Turning, Brad Moggach on organ on YouTube.

Click here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ue_Oo_6zVaM&feature=youtu.be

Words and Music: Rory Cooney, Tune: Copyright©1990, Arrangement by John Ferguson, ©2009 by GIA Publications, Inc.
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Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all, in your home and in mine.

Prayer of the Day: Holy God, you lead us by Jesus' example. Today we learn of his healing ministry, his practice of prayer, and his mission of going out. In the current contexts of stay-at-home order, help us to find creative ways to truly be Jesus' disciples, following his example, his teachings, his WAY. Amen.

The Lesson: Isaiah 40: sections from 21-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,

and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;

who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,

and spreads them like a tent to live in;

who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

To whom then will you compare me,

or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,

calling them all by name;

because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,

'My way is hidden from the Lord,

and my right is disregarded by my God'?

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;

his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint,

and strengthens the powerless.

Even youths will faint and be weary,

and the young will fall exhausted;

but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
 they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
 they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. [NRSV]
Word of God, word of life. C: Thanks be to God.

Acclamation of the Word: Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child ELW #297

Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59JIsulUmcl>

Text African American Traditional; Music African American Traditional; Contributor: Jeffrey Radford; arr. Bradley Moggach
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The Holy Gospel according to Mark 1:29-39
Glory to you O Lord.

Directly on leaving the meeting place, they came to Simon and Andrew's house, accompanied by James and John. Simon's mother-in-law was sick in bed, burning up with fever. They told Jesus. He went to her, took her hand, and raised her up. No sooner had the fever left than she was up fixing dinner for them.

That evening, after the sun was down, they brought sick and evil-afflicted people to him, the whole city lined up at his door! He cured their sick bodies and tormented spirits. Because the demons knew his true identity, he didn't let them say a word.

While it was still night, way before dawn, he got up and went out to a secluded spot and prayed. Simon and those with him went looking for him. They found him and said, "Everybody's looking for you."

Jesus said, "Let's go to the rest of the villages so I can preach there also. This is why I've come." He went to their meeting places all through Galilee, preaching and throwing out the demons. [The Message Translation]

This is the Gospel of our Lord. Praise to you O Christ.

Message (Janaki) – Healing, Prayer & Going Out.

The way of discipleship may not always be clear, especially in these COVID times but this past week I saw the way of discipleship in many, many places ... I won't try to tell you about them all, but I will tell you about a tour I had of the outreach centre of the Vineyard Church. I hadn't even planned on going there this week, but one of my retired friends, whom I met volunteering at Bridges insisted that I go for a walk with him. I thought he just wanted some exercise, but we made our way to the Vineyard, where his friend there, Christine, who is the director of "Urban Hope, Reaching Beyond" was happy to have Parker (my overenthusiastic beagle) say hello, and then show me around their outreach centre (while my friend Bob hung on to Parkie for dear life).

I went through a protocol similar to what we have used at church when we re-opened, answered some questions, filled out my contact info and had my temperature taken. They were following the protocols of not gathering – so only two volunteers were there with Christine. I was shown through the industrial kitchen (built from a donation of \$100,000 given by a developer to whom they sold some land, who wanted to support their valuable outreach ministry). I was shown the showers, laundry room, clothing closet, lunch bag assembly line, and walk-in food bank they operate from that building, along with a small prayer room and other spaces. I was so very thankful to see how disciples were serving in many ways to ensure that people with housing, clothing, food or spiritual insecurity were being supported. This is an outreach which is meeting so many needs, especially during a time when so many other resources like the clothing closet at the Food Bank, are closed to the public. Christine said that they had complete Public Health approval too!

Those of you who wrote cards to go in lunch bags, these are the lunch bags they would go into – they include non-perishable items like crackers, fruit cups, and a hot meal too.

Today's lectionary reading from the gospel of Mark points directly at discipleship and healing ministry. It begins simply with the words "Directly on leaving the meeting place" so, unless you read the whole chapter of Mark, you won't know that Jesus has just commanded evil out of someone, and everyone is in awe, and news of his healing work has already begun spreading. He has already shown his healing power over evil spirits.

They go Simon and Andrew's house, where Simon's mother-in-law is ill. The reading says Jesus "went to her, took her hand, and raised her up." In this day and age of Tylenol and over the counter medications, you might think that this wasn't much of a big deal as Jesus' big deal healings go ... to really understand it you have to know that in that context, for a Jewish man (Jesus) to go into a home and touch a woman, especially a sick woman, was unheard of. This first physical healing act mentioned in the gospel of Mark shows Jesus from the outset reaching out to someone who is, by virtue of her gender, "less than".

As soon as she is healed, she hops up to make supper from the sound of it – a fine example to any of us who have been healed by Jesus' work in our lives – to hop up and find a way to serve others!

Then it seems that, after supper made by the newly recovered mom of Simon's wife, after dark (so imagine a home now lit dimly with smoky oil lamps) a whole pile of healing ministry happens ... I imagine Jesus and the disciples are plumb tuckered out by the end of it all. Probably making for the kind of day when you lay in until sun up and (if you aren't Jewish or bound by Jewish food purity rules) would have a nice bacon and eggs breakfast.

But Jesus wakes "way before dawn" and "went out to a secluded spot and prayed".

I love this about Jesus. He doesn't take unity with Godself to be reason to not pray! He doesn't say to himself, I am the Son of God, I don't need to wake up early and pray. He gets up in the thickest darkest part of the night way before dawn, and drags what must have been a somewhat tired body away, in seclusion, to pray.

It doesn't say he checked his texts while he was praying.

He didn't have the news on for background noise.

He didn't scan the newsfeeds to get updates on vaccines or politics.

But in the still, quiet, dark, he brought himself before his parent God, to spend some time in that special conversation with God that we call prayer ... I wonder what he said, I wonder what he asked for? I wonder what he gave thanks for? I imagine if I was in his place I would have asked for energy, maybe prayed that Mrs. Simon's wife's mom makes a nice breakfast for us, I would ask God to fill me with healing energy to share with others, I would ask God to give me patience as a teacher and leader. I would be thankful for all I have been able to do already in my life, and look with hope to the possibilities that lie ahead. I probably also would share with God my worry about going to the cross which I already know is going to happen ... maybe have a "not my will but your will be done" moment.

While in prayer, Simon and the disciples apparently had to run crowd control ...people have come looking for this miracle working healer. This wise preacher and teacher.

Jesus seems to be replenished (maybe from the quiet prayer time, maybe from Mrs. Simon's wife's mom's supper the night before??) For he replies to them "Let's go to the rest of the villages so I can preach there also. This is why I've come."

These three components ... Healing others (even those who wouldn't usually be touched in the mainstream culture), quiet prayer in solitude, and then going out – these are the examples we get from Jesus this week.

Maybe you don't know how to go out, when we are under stay-at-home order ... card writing, phone calling, encouraging others to give food and clothing and donations of time, talents and treasures to places where active outreach is happening – this is how you go out in this context.

Turning off all distractions, and finding quiet time to pray is another way of discipleship.

And extending the healing gift of your company, your "touch" even if by phone or handwriting or email or messaging – this is how we follow Jesus in this time.

Let our response to God's call to love each other be: This is why I've come ☺ Amen!

Hymn of the Day: Will You Let Me Be Your Servant ELW 659; Text & Music Richard Gillard; Bradley Moggach, Piano
Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pT-YrmucWgo&t=>

© Text & Music Richard Gillard; Words & Music: 1977 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing

**** Prayers of the People**

As we celebrate the manifestation of Jesus, to all people in this time after Epiphany, let us pray for the needs in our world, responding to the call: God who provides all, with *hear our prayer*.

Gracious and Holy God, your eternal purposes revealed in Jesus demonstrate your love extends to the ends of the earth, far beyond our capacity to imagine. We give thanks for your expansive love, and for the abundant ways in which you make yourself known to us.

We pray for all who believe in you,
Too often afraid of the rich diversity you have designed,
Too often timid in our proclamation of the good news of your love-example, before the rulers and powers of this world.
Strengthen our witness, our voices, hearts and minds.
Fill us with Divine Spirit, that we may be bold and courageous, to live our witness of faith in Jesus.

God who provides all, hear our prayer.

Heal divisions in our world of knowledge, belief and power,
So that your world may know the unity of love, sharing in the promises of Jesus,
Knowing the peace those promises provide.

God who provides ALL, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are struggling in and with darkness,
Darkness of health, of soul, of mind, of spirit.
We call upon your power to make apparent and manifest the knowledge of Jesus,
The light which darkness cannot overcome.

God who provides ALL, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have little power according to the world's measure of power.
Guide us to be your defense in the cause of the poor, according to your will;
Guide us to be your hands and feet in deliverance of those in need, in ending oppression, according to your will.
Bring your healing to those in need, your comfort to those who are hurting. Show us how to help.

God who provides ALL, hear our prayer.

Help us to be your light that makes Jesus manifest in our world. Show us the way, we pray, in Jesus' precious name.
Amen.

Let us share the peace of Christ:

The Peace of Christ be with you always, in your home and in mine, and throughout God's creation.

Meal:

Click here if you are accessing YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O0YEYAO080U>

I invite you to prepare your table with bread and wine, or crackers and juice, whatever is available to you, so that you may participate in the meal. All are welcome

Communion Hymn for: Lead Kindly Light (with lyrics) Robb Wilson, soloist; Bradley Moggach, piano

Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFQa4orSziE>

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****Prayer after Communion**

People of God: arise and shine, for your light has come and the glory of God shines through you.
Get up: shake off apathy, despair and all that brings you low.
People of God: show the light and love of Jesus,

so that others may know Jesus who is in you,
and shines from within you.

Take all that today's worship has filled you with, and pour it out in the coming week ☺
Amen.

Sending Hymn: Go My Children With My Blessing ELW 543; Bradley Moggach, piano

Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=paeLiwar3Hg&t=>

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Blessing:

May the love of God uphold you;
the light of Christ guide you;
and the fellowship of Spirit fill you with joy,
now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal: Go with Jesus, shining Christ light into the world. *Thanks be to God.*

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