

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinabek Nations, and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. This territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

This territory is also covered by the Toronto Purchase, Treaty 13 of 1805, and the Williams Treaties of 1923. Today, our community is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We gather by these territorial lands and waters to worship, listen, learn, share, and heal together in the name of our Creator, the Holy One of Blessing.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Paul's Lutheran Church The Feast of the Epiphany



Epiphany 3

January 21, 2024



HYMN ELW # 817 YOU HAVE COME DOWN TO THE LAKESHORE

You have come down to the lakeshore
Seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,
But only asking for me to follow.

Refrain: Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes,
Kindly smiling, you've called out my name.
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
Now with you, I will seek other seas.

You know full well what I have, Lord;
Neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,
Just these my fishnets and will for working. *Refrain*

You need my hands, my exhaustion,
Working love for the rest of the weary,
A love that's willing to go on loving. *Refrain*

You who have fished other waters;
You, the longing of souls that are yearning;
O loving Friend, you have come to call me. *Refrain*

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION *from the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*

We come before you now, O God, to confess our sins:

By seeking happiness without God and ignoring the command to love, we have turned away from God and from our neighbour. Our selfishness and our desire to possess and control separate us from God. *Silence*

Merciful God: **forgive and heal us.**

When we accept ideologies that demean the humanity of others, we build walls of division, sow the seeds of hatred and violence and abandon the Lord's command to love one another. *Silence*

Merciful God: **forgive and heal us.**

We have hardened our hearts and deceived ourselves. In our lack of compassion, we no longer see Jesus in those who are different from ourselves. *Silence*

Merciful God: **forgive and heal us.**

We fail to open our hearts and minds to the infinite and unconditional nature of God's love for all. By being closed to this love, the world is darkened by selfishness, violence, indifference and absence of meaning. *Silence*

Merciful God: **forgive and heal us.**

God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ whom you sent in the fullness of time to redeem all creation, we ask you to have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and transform us by your Holy Spirit.

Glory to God, whom we praise with one voice.

GREETING

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.**

LITANY OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING *from the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*

Let us turn our hearts to God in praise:

Praise to you, Lord, for you have poured out your love into our hearts so that we never lose hope. You free our lives from fear because of your love, and dress our wounded and injured hearts. Praise to you for all the women and men who sow seeds of love and hope for their neighbours around the world.

Lord, we praise you.

Eternal God, we thank you for the gift of Jesus your Son, the Redeemer of all people. Thanks be to you for the grace of conversion and all the seeds of faith, hope and charity among your people and everywhere. Thanks be to you for the faith we received from the apostles, for Jesus' prayer for unity, and for the gift of the Good News of salvation.

Lord, we thank you.

God of love, we adore you for the generosity of your love for all people – a love so perfect, it is beyond our understanding; a love in which there is no distinction on grounds of race, gender, or social status. We adore you, who out of love sent your Son, Jesus Christ, into the world and continue to fill our lives with your love through the Holy Spirit.

Lord, we adore you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

ELW # 675 O CHRIST, OUR LIGHT, O RADIANCE TRUE verses 1 and 5

**O Christ, our light, O Radiance true,
shine forth on those estranged from you,
And bring them to your home again,
Where their delight shall never end.**

**Make theirs with ours a single voice
Uplifted ever to rejoice
With wondering gratitude and praise
To you, O Lord, for boundless grace.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

JONAH 3:1-5, 10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” So 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. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth..... When 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. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 62:5-12

For God alone I wait in silence;

Truly, my hope is in God.

God alone is my rock and my salvation,

my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.

In God is my deliverance and my honour;

God is my strong rock and my refuge.

Put your Trust in God always, O people,

pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.

Those 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.

Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;

Though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.

God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,

that power belongs to God.

Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord,

For you repay all according to their deeds.

1 CORINTHIANS 7:29-31

I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short;

from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none,

and 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, and those who deal with the world as though they had

no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

MARK 1:14-20

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of

God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;

repent, and believe in the good news." As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee,

he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were

fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for

people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little

farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat

mending the nets. Immediately 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

HYMN # 815 I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT

**I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.**

Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all.

**The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain***

**I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain***

APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 *adapted from the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*
Pastor

We have been invited to live the divine call to love God and our neighbour as ourselves. As we renew our commitment to this call, may this love strengthen our unity as Christians.

With all our hearts, we desire to dwell in God's love and to have the grace to love our neighbours as ourselves.

Assistant

God of boundless love, we pray that all people may come to know your unlimited mercy and believe in your desire to fill us with your infinite love. God of grace..... **Fill us with your love! Make us one in you.**

Pastor

We join our prayers to that of Jesus, who prayed for the unity of all who follow him.

Assistant

God of communion, we pray that we may work together for your greater glory and spread the Good News of salvation for all.

God of grace..... **Fill us with your love! Make us one in you.**

Pastor

Our hearts are broken because of the confusion and division in our world.

Assistant

God, our healer, we, who are scattered like sheep without a shepherd, ask you to gather us into one fold. Enliven us by your Spirit and send us again to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth.

Bring the nations into the way of justice and peace, righteous God.

Strengthen those who work for human rights, equality, and the protection of the most vulnerable. We pray for all in public office, that they may serve with honesty and honour, and let your peace fill the minds and hearts of the people of Ukraine, Russia, Iran, Sudan, Israel, and Palestine.

God of grace..... **Fill us with your love! Make us one in you.**

Pastor

Our world is scarred by terror and violence. Millions are forced to leave their homes in search of refuge and safety.

Assistant

God of welcome, grant us the grace to risk embracing the stranger, tending their wounds and standing in solidarity with them. Strengthen our resolve to be kind and merciful and to act towards our sisters and brothers at all times as you do towards us.

God of grace..... **Fill us with your love! Make us one in you.**

Pastor

In our weakness and fear we know that we often turn away from those who need our help.

Assistant

God of power, despite our lack of charity, open our hearts to experience the length, width, height, and depth of your love, so that we may love you more and love our neighbour as ourselves. Help those who have no helper, delivering God. Rescue any who suffer from abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Deliver adults and children who are caught in cycles of poverty. Transform social systems that enable racism and discrimination of any kind. Heal and comfort the sick and recovering. Make a place in our hearts for prayers for Ingrid, Tom, and all we name before you.....

pause

God of grace..... **Fill us with your love! Make us one in you.**

Assistant

Accompany our ministries, abiding God. Inspire us as we worship, pray, and serve. Keep us mindful of the needs of others in our community.

Help us to seek creative and bold new ways of sharing the bright and glorious love of God. We pray for our Christian church neighbours at

St. Christopher's and St. Mary's Anglican

St. Matthew's and Richmond Hill United

Our Lady Queen of the World and St. Mary Immaculate Roman Catholic

Richmond Hill Presbyterian

Community Christian Reformed

The Salvation Army and The Meeting House

God of grace..... **Fill us with your love! Make us one in you.**

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God. **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

The offering will now be received and may God bless the gifts of your life

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Merciful God, receive the gifts we bring, ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, through Christ our Lord.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory;
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

Our Lord Jesus Christ,

in the night in which he was betrayed, 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.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.
Come. Be filled with light and life. **Thanks be to God!**

HOLY COMMUNION

you are invited to eat your bread and drink your wine as you hear the words
“the body of Christ given for you” “the blood of Christ shed for you”

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ strengthen
us and keep us always in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from
this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey
humbly with you. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The God of glory dwell in you richly,
Name you beloved,
And shine brightly on your path;
And the blessing of Almighty God,
The Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit ,
Be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN ELW # 674 LET US TALENTS AND TONGUES EMPLOY

**Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

***Refrain:* Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.**

Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

**Christ is able to make us one,
at his table he set the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. *Refrain***

**Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere! *Refrain***

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE