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February 1, 2026 – Epiphany 4 Service of the Word

Pastor: Rev. Liz Bell
Assisting Minister: Belynda Kelleher
Ministers: Every member
Ushers: Rita Roste & Marilyn Murray

Council President: Karen Oko
Musician: Kathryn Elford
Video/Live Streaming: Anton Chell
Worship Host: Christopher Schneider

Welcome

Gathering Song “*Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven*” (ELW 864)

Kyrie & Gloria – Canadian Liturgy

Prayer of the Day

Children’s Time

First Reading Micah 6:1-8

¹ Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ² Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³ “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.” ⁶ “With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

Psalm 15 *read responsively*

¹ Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

² **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected,
but they honor those who fear the Lord.**

They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain,
nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Gospel Acclamation Canadian Liturgy

Gospel Matthew 5:1-12

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying: ³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸ "Blessed are the pure

in heart, for they will see God. ⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Sermon

Song of the Day ‘*Light Dawns on a Weary World*’ (ELW 726)

The Creed of Inclusivity from Covenant of the Rainbow

We believe in God,

We believe in God,

**who creates all things and proclaims them good, indeed, very good,
who creates us fully and completely in God’s imagine,
with each and every part of us,
including our sexualities and genders,
reflecting the Divine image.**

We believe in Jesus, the Christ,

We believe in Jesus, the Christ,

**who embodies the love and justice of God,
who models good stewardship of all that God has made,
calling us to live fully and completely,
embracing all that God has entrusted to us.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the power of God at work in the world,
giving us the courage to love ourselves and others,
tearing down the walls that divide us,
making of us a new and inclusive community of faith
committed to transforming the world
to reflect the values of God.**

We believe in the Church, the body of Christ,

We believe in the Church, the body of Christ,

**called to be a welcoming community
as God has welcomed us.
to welcome all to Christ’s table
reaching out in healing love
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

*In our prayers: Gertie B, Carl C, Tom d, Susan K, Cody M,
Brendan S, Pr. Erin T, and those we hold dear in our hearts.*

An Inclusive Lord's Prayer (based on Matthew 6:9-13)

Blessed One, our Father and our Mother

Holy is your name.

May your love be enacted in the world.

May your will be done

On earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread

And 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 all that we do in your love,

and all that your love brings to birth,

and the fullness of love that will be

are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Peace

Offertory: Canadian Liturgy

Offering Prayer

Blessing

Community Life

Sending Song 'We Are Called' (ELW 720) vs 1,3

Dismissal

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