

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - PEMBROKE

JANUARY 15 2023

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

SETTING FOUR - EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

**GATHERING SONG *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!* (ELW
308 vs 1,2,4 & 6)**

1 *O Morning Star, how fair and bright!*
You shine with God's own truth and light,
aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob's line, King David's son,
our Lord and Savior, you have won
our hearts to serve you only!
Lowly, holy!
Great and glorious,
all victorious,
rich in blessing!
Rule and might o'er all possessing!

2 *Come, precious diamond, light divine,*
and deep within our hearts now shine;
there light a flame undying!
In your one body let us be
as living branches of a tree,
your life our lives supplying.
Now, though daily
earth's deep sadness
may perplex us
and distress us,
yet with heav'nly joy you bless us.

4 *Almighty Father, in your Son*
you loved us, when not yet begun
was this old earth's foundation!
Your Son has ransomed us in love
to live in him here and above:
this is your great salvation.
Alleluia!
Christ the living,
to us giving
life forever,
keeps us yours and fails us never!

5 *Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!*

Our joy be all with music crowned,
our voices gaily blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way--
today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out!
Jubilation! Exultation!
Tell the story!
Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission-One License # A- 728050.

GREETING (ELW p. 147)

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.

KYRIE (ELW p. 147)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 148)

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,**

**we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 150)

Let us pray.

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen .

MEN'S Choir Anthem - When a Star is Shining By Sylvia Dunstan and Bob Moore

CHILDREN' S CHAT

FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:1-7

¹Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. ²He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. ³And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."⁴But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with

the Lord, and my reward with my God.”⁵ And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—⁶he says, “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”⁷ Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, “Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.” Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 40:1-11

¹I waited patiently upon the Lord, who stooped to me and I heard my cry.

²**The Lord lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.**

³The Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the Lord.

⁴**Happy are they who trust in the Lord! They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.**

⁵Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God! In your plans for us, none can be compared with you! Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than I can count.

⁶**Sacrifice and offering you do not desire; you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required.**

⁷And so I said, “Here I am; I come. In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

⁸**‘I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep within me.’ ”**

⁹I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly; I have not restrained my lips, O Lord, you know.

¹⁰**I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the great assembly.**

¹¹You are the Lord; do not withhold your compassion from me; may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

¹Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL: John 1:29-42

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹[John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"³⁰This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³²And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON (ELW p. 151)

Second Sunday after Epiphany -John 1:29-42

She showed up in church one Sunday morning in her black leather, biker jacket looking a little bit lost.

Based on her clothes, piercings, and tattoos, she clearly did not fit into that congregational setting. The pastor introduced herself and welcomed her.

She said, "I had to come today because GOD invited me on your sign."

The pastor couldn't even remember what the marquee sign in front of the church said, so she checked after the service was over. It read, "LOOKING FOR A SIGN? THIS IS IT."

She later told the pastor that she had been feeling that something was missing in her life but she didn't know what it was—that her life seemed to be filled with questions and no answers. But when she drove by and saw the sign, it was like GOD was inviting her to come.

A question and an invitation.

In the Gospel of John, that's how JESUS' ministry and mission starts. And I find both intriguing and helpful. First, the question. JESUS' first words in John's Gospel are not a sermon, or a command, or a proclamation about the coming of the kingdom, as happens in the other Gospels.

When John's followers pursue JESUS, HE asks them, "What do you want?" His question in the original Greek is much richer: - "What are you looking for?" or, "What are you seeking? or, "What do you hope to find?"

We might expand that to: or "What do you need?" or, "What do you long for?" or, "What is it you are hoping for?"

These are great questions, but ones we rarely ask or try to answer in the church, much less in our conversations with folks in our daily lives.

As I've reflected on this, I wondered if it might not be due to the consumer culture in which we live. Actually, commercials and advertisements ask questions all the time, but when they do, it's not really a question.

It's a set-up for the answer they've already prepared.

- "What do you need?" quickly becomes, "We know what you need: a new pair of running shoes, or a more

expensive car, or whiter teeth, or to lose fifteen pounds."

- And then we're told that we can have that thing that we surely must need for a price.

I know that you know better than that. We know that true wealth is counting all the blessings we enjoy that money cannot buy. But message after message to the contrary can wear us down and push us to look for substitutes. And this is all the more true for those who do not have a meaningful relationship with our LORD.

That's why a question might be a worthwhile place to begin the new year for ourselves, and to include in our conversations with those who are not affiliated with a church.

It might serve us and them well to ask this question:

"What do you really need, long for, or hope for?" And a question we might ask as a congregation at the beginning of this year (like we did last week at the table talks) is how might we offer those things?

Might what is needed be silence in a world of so much noise? Could it be a place to serve others in a world that encourages putting yourself first?

Perhaps some sense of hope and courage when the headlines inspire fear and despair?

Maybe a Sabbath rest in a 24/7 world where relentless busy-ness has become a badge of honor and is regularly substituted for meaningful activity and necessary rest? Or might what is needed simply be a place for people to belong in an individualistic and often lonely culture? Those of you who participate on social media may recognize that our electronic communication devices are both helpful and harmful. They are helpful in that they connect us with people who are far away. But they are harmful because they often isolate us from those who are close by as we pay more attention to the thing in our hand or on our desk, than the person who is sitting right across from us. What is it that we and the people

we know most need, and how might our congregation provide it?

What is one purpose around which to organize our efforts, one hallmark of this community to lift up, that others may see who we are and what we offer that can meet a deeply felt need that they have.

No church can do everything, of course, but I wonder if we might find one thing on which to focus in the coming year?

As I've been thinking about this, I've wondered if that one thing might be simply letting people know that this a place to belong. Give that some thought this week. The disciples reply to JESUS' question by asking where HE is staying. What they want to know is where can they come to simply be with HIM.

And before looking at the specifics of what JESUS does say, I think it is also important to note what JESUS does not say.

JESUS doesn't give an answer, directive, or command. - Instead, HE offers to them an invitation. Invitations are inherently relational, and I think it is worthwhile for us to recognize that. Because when people come with their questions about faith or religion, they're often less interested in a particular answer or specific information, but rather are seeking a relationship that allows them to explore those questions with someone else. People with questions often want to know what others think, at least as much as the answer to the question. It also reminds us that we don't have to have all the answers, but simply be ready to offer an invitation, and through that invitation, offer ourselves—our commitment to be with them in conversation regardless of where the questions and conversation may lead.

JESUS' invitation to the future disciples is quite simple: "Come and see." - It is non-threatening. It is clear. And, again, it is inherently relational. - It is

something that any of us could say. And that, in turn, invites us to imagine evangelism—in a different way.

Evangelism doesn't have to be intrusive or abrasive or unwelcome, though I suspect many of you have experienced it that way. Evangelism is simply offering a clear, non-threatening, relational invitation to others who are seeking something more than that which the culture has to offer: "Come and see."

People today worry about the decline of church attendance. I believe this decline will end when a critical mass—and it doesn't even have to be a majority—just a critical mass of our people can do two things. First, that they know why they value participation in the church, and - second, that they can share that with others.

Take some time this week to think and even to write down what it is that makes coming here important to you and worthwhile for you so that you might be able to tell someone else. Understand, though, that the goal of this is not to get more people into church, or stop the decline of congregational participation, but to simply invite people into the joy and life we have experienced in CHRIST.

And as you think about doing this—about inviting others to come and see, recognize that it is not just we who extend that invitation. It is GOD in CHRIST working through us to invite others to an abundant life that is so much richer than anything we can buy. And just as importantly, it is GOD in CHRIST inviting us to that same life.

Even if we wrestle to name or understand or express our faith, even if we struggle to share our faith with others, even when we wonder if we believe at all, JESUS is still there, still asking what we most deeply need, still inviting us to come and see, and still determined to give us more than we can possibly imagine. JESUS simply will not give up on any of us...ever! And if you're not sure of that, then all I have to say to you is this: "Come and see."

HYMN OF THE DAY *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* (ELW 759)

1 My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!

Now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away,
oh, let me from this day
be wholly thine!

2 May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me,
oh, may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire!

3 While life's dark maze I tread
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.

4 When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll;
blest Savior, then, in love
fear and distrust remove;
oh, bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887. Text: Public Domain

CREED (ELW p. 152)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Put a new song in the mouth of your church. Inspire the baptized to tell of your faithfulness, sharing the good news of your salvation throughout the earth. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

The waters of baptism call us into life in the Spirit. Preserve the world's waters: protect them from pollution, support plants and animals who depend on them, and bring rain in places of drought. Guide us in protecting local. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

In Jesus you are the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Show your mercy to all nations. Direct leaders to do your will; fill governing bodies with righteousness; equip judges with discernment and compassion. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You incline your ear to all who cry to you. Draw near to individuals and communities suffering violence, injustice, illness, or poverty. Hide them in the shadow of your hand and make us signs of your faithfulness to all in need (*We pray especially for Ann, Jason, Erna, Richard, Marilyn, Margaret, Martha, Lani, Charlotte, Ella, Rhonda, Heather, Aileen, Brenda, Ruth, Anneliese, Kaitlyn, Danita, Ann*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You are glorified in the servants you have called. Give us bold trust in you. Even when it feels like a sharp sword or polished arrow, give us courage to receive your call to repentance and racial justice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

In every place and time, you have sanctified your people. We praise you for the testimony of those who have died in the faith. Strengthen us as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

PEACE (ELW p. 152)

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING *In the Bleak Midwinter* (ELW 294) verses 1 and 3

1 In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter,
long ago.

3 What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd

I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man
I would do my part;
yet what I can give him--
give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894. Text: Public Domain.

OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 152)

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE (ELW p. 152)

PREFACE (ELW p. 153)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful
God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of
everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 153)

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this
cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come
again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious
resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,

we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and
thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your
servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of
Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and
forever.

Amen, amen, amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 154)

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

**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;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)

COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 154)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION *O God of Light* (ELW 507)

Amen.

1 O God of light, your word, a lamp unfailing,
shall pierce the darkness of our earthbound way
and show your grace, your plan for us unveiling,
and guide our footsteps to the perfect day.

2 From days of old, through blind and willful ages,
though we rebelled, you gently sought again,
and spoke through saints, apostles, prophets, sages,
who wrote with eager or reluctant pen.

3 Undimmed by time, those words are still revealing
to sinful hearts your justice and your grace;
and questing spirits, longing for your healing,
see your compassion in the Savior's face.

4 To all the world your summons you are sending,
through all the earth, to ev'ry land and race,
that myriad tongues, in one great anthem blending,
may praise and celebrate your gift of grace.

**SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song:*
*Jésus, je voudraiste chanter (ELW 808)***

1 Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;
I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go:
you alone are our life and our peace and our love.
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.

2 Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.

3 As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,
to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.
For you saved me by giving your body and blood.
As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.

4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;
but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my
side.
And with all of the family you saved by your love,
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.

Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931. Text © Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission- One License #A-728050.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 155)

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have
refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of
life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in
faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING (ELW p. 155)

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

**SENDING SONG *We Are Marching in the Light:*
Siyahamba (ELW 866)**

We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching--oo--
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching--oo--
we are marching in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib:

We are dancing...
We are praying...
We are singing...

Text: South African traditional; tr. *Freedom Is Coming*, 1984. Text: Public Domain.

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA.
Liturgy taken from sundaysandseasons.com.

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Please Pray for Those Who are Ill, in Hospital, or Requested Special Prayers: Ann Beech, Jason Godin, Erna Handke, Richard Hubert, Marilyn Kathen, Margaret King, Martha Kodzynski, Lani Lange, Charlotte Layden, Ella Lehman, Rhonda Mau, Heather Miller, Aileen Roesler, Brenda Sperberg, Ruth Thom, Anneliese Trautrim, Kaitlyn Vaillancourt, Danita Wolfgram, Ann Watt

**NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS
OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Offering Envelopes for 2023 are ready for pickup on the stage in the Parish Hall. Please take yours plus any family members home today.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

A reminder to everyone that we continue to check the suggestion boxes at the entrances to the church. If you have a favourite hymn that you would like included in a service, please let us know. Also, if you have concerns, questions or suggestions regarding our worship services, place them in one of the boxes. Everything will be included in our meetings.

ANNUAL REPORT

A reminder to all committees that your reports for the Annual Report are due by January 18th. This will be the first year that Shelley is creating this report so please submit your reports on time.

ANNUAL MEETING

Meeting will follow Sunday, February 26 worship. Cancellation date will be Monday March 6th.

MIDWEEK SERVICES

On Wednesday, January 25 and Wednesday, February 15 at 10:30 am.

ZLW Meeting

Next ZLW meeting will be on Wednesday, February 1, 2023. Enjoy a Valentine Tea with Games and Love Songs. Coffee and snacks to follow!

BISHOP'S RETREAT

Pastor Scott and Pastor Sue will be away starting Sunday, February 5 to Wednesday, February 8 inclusive.

JESUS IN THE PSALMS

Book Study Group, will be starting weekly on Thursday, February 23rd to Thursday, March 30th at 10:00 am. If you wish to do the study the cost is \$20.

Messy Church – (Valentine's Theme) is another alternative, in addition to Sunday School (not in place of), that is held in the evening once a month. It includes Food, Crafts, Games, Faith Talk, and Fun! It is for all individuals young (3-13 yr olds) and old. The next event is February 6th at 5:30

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Next meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 14 at 7:00pm.

HEALING SERVICES

Next Healing Service will be held on Sunday, January 22 at 10:00 am

SHROVE TUESDAY

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner will take place on Tuesday, February 21 at 5:30pm. Come and Feast before the fast. This is a fundraiser for the confirmation program to assist in sending children to Confirmation Camp. Freewill offering collected.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday Service will take place on Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00 pm.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Midweek Lenten Services will start on Wednesday, March 1 at 7:00pm. Soup and Sandwich Suppers will take place prior to worship beginning at 6:00 pm. Volunteers are needed to provide a large pot of soup and sandwiches. Signup sheets are available outside the kitchen.

SKATING PARTY

On Wed. January 18 at Rotary Park, all young people and parents are invited. Hot chocolate and goodies will be served at Pastor Scott and Pastor Sue's (524 Mary St) afterwards. Begins at 6:15 pm. There are plenty of parking spots on Mary St.

YOUTH GROUP ages 11-17. **Mystery Night**. If older kids show up we won't turn them away. We will be meeting on January 27th from 6:30 – 8pm.

LIVING STONES

The next "**Living Stones**" worship is Sunday, January 15th at 12:00 and Sunday, February 12th at 12:00 pm. It is an intergenerational service. It is in the gym and is led by a praise team. If you have musical gifts you would like to share please contact Pastor Scott or Pastor Sue. Those that want to come to worship can come early for coffee.

Today's Scheduled Worship Volunteers

Worship Assistant:	Ellen Vandersleen
Sexton:	David Lehman
Projector Operator:	Zach Phannenhour
Video Recorder:	Ty Phannenhour
Sound Operator:	Todd Phannenhour
Counters:	Susan Dupuis, Joel & Kathy Nieman
Altar Care:	Wendy Schutt
Ushers:	Pastor Sue and Amanda Campbell
Coffee Hour:	Debbie Sitkiewicz & Pam Duplessis

This Week at Zion – January 16 – January 22

Mon:	10:00 am Pastoral Care Meeting
Tues:	9:30 am Tai Chi 7:00 pm Council Meeting 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous
Wed:	12:30 pm Staff Meeting 6:15 pm Skating Party @ Rotary Park with Hot Chocolate & Goodies at Pastor Scott & Pastor Sue house 7:00 pm Men's Choir Practice Deadline for Annual Report
Thurs:	9:30 am Tai Chi 7:00 pm Mixed Choir Practice 7:00 pm Music Healing Vets
Fri:	
Sun:	10:00 am Healing Service 2:00 pm Riverview Heights Worship