



ORDER OF SERVICE

St. Matthew's United Church and Bloor Street United Church
Toronto

January 22, 2023

10.30 am

Second Sunday After Epiphany

Minister: Rev. Lauren Hodgson and Rev. Dr. Russ Daye

Music Directors: Paul Jessen and Mikey Zahorak

ZOOM-host: Lisa Walter

PRELUDE

Wachet Auf

Bach

WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE LAND

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

INTROIT

Winter Song

Performed by Emily & Rebecca. Words & Music by Sara Bareilles and Ingrid Michaelson from the album "The Hotel Café". Copyright [Epic Records] 2008.

This is my winter song to you
The storm is coming soon
It rolls in from the sea
My voice; a beacon in the night
My words will be your light
To carry you to me
Is love alive?
Is love ...

They say that things just cannot grow
Beneath the winter snow
Or so I have been told
They say we're buried far
Just like a distant star
I simply cannot hold
Is love alive?

This is my winter song
December never felt so wrong
Cause you're not where you belong
Inside my arms

Bum bum bum bum bum bum bum bum ...

I still believe in summer days
The seasons always change
And life will find a way
I'll be your harvester of light
And send it out tonight
So we can start again
Is love alive?

CALL TO WORSHIP

Seasons of the Spirit

One: As he walked by a lake, Jesus called fishers to follow him.

All: **And immediately they left their work and went with him.**

One: As Jesus journeys through our lives, he asks us to follow him.

All: **In this moment we have the chance to leave the past behind, and pursue Christ into God's future.**

One: As Jesus wanders in our world, he invites others to join in.

All: **We would join Jesus in this ministry, reaching out to our neighbours, without delay!**

OPENING PRAYER

Seasons of the Spirit

Your heart is the shelter for our weary souls.
You will not push us away, but clasp us tight in your embrace.
You refuse to abandon us, standing by our side all our lives.
Time reaper, you are our hope!
When others try to tear us apart, you pick up the pieces,
making us whole. When we wonder what the day might bring,
you whisper, "follow me, I will make you:
readers to little children,
bandagers of bruised hearts,
lovers of the forsaken,
pilgrims who show the way to others."
Time shaker, you are our dawn.
You appeal to us to set aside all that divides us, so we might be one.
You send us to proclaim good news, not with silver-tongued
sophistication but with simple words: justice, hope, grace, love, which
bring light to the shadows.
Time keeper, you are our joy. Amen.

OPENING HYMN - VU #509 Here I Am, Lord

Words, Music, Harmony: © 1981 Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music, administered by Oregon Catholic Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain,
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

Refrain

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Refrain

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another with signs of the peace of Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE

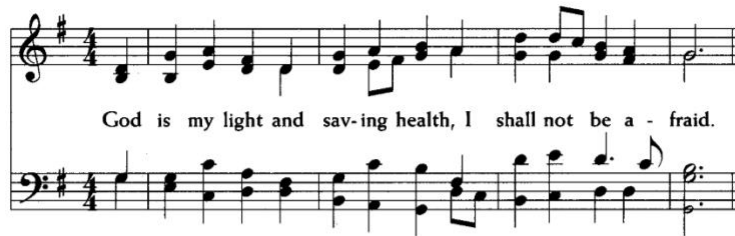
Psalm 27:1, 4-9 (VU pp. 753-755) & Matthew 4:12-23

754 PSALTER

Psalm 27

Refrain

Jeremiah Clarke



God is my light and sav-ing health, I shall not be a - fraid.

God is my light and my salvation, whom then shall I fear?
God is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?
When the wicked close in to devour me,
it is they, my enemies and my foes, who stumble and fall.
If an army should encamp against me,
my heart shall not be afraid;
if war should arise against me,
even then I will not be dismayed. R

One thing I have asked of God, for which I long:
that I may dwell in God's house all the days of my life,
to gaze on your beauty, O God,
and to seek you in your temple.
For in the time of trouble you will give me shelter;
you will hide me under the cover of your tent,
you will set me high upon a rock.
And now you have raised my head
above my enemies round about me.
Therefore I will offer in your dwelling
a sacrifice with great gladness. R

Hear my voice, O God, when I call; have mercy and answer me.
Your face, O God, I seek.
Do not hide your face from me,
do not reject your servant in anger,
you who have been my helper.
Do not cast me off, or forsake me, O God my saviour.
Though my father and mother forsake me,
my God will take me up. R

Teach me your way, O God,
lead me on a level path, safe from those who lie in wait for me.
Do not give me up to the will of my enemies,

(continued over)

Matthew 4:12-23 (from *The Message*)

Walking along the beach of Lake Galilee, Jesus saw two brothers: Simon (later called Peter) and Andrew. They were fishing, throwing their nets into the lake. It was their regular work. Jesus said to them, "Come with me. I'll

make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I'll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass." They didn't ask questions, but simply dropped their nets and followed.

A short distance down the beach they came upon another pair of brothers, James and John, Zebedee's sons. These two were sitting in a boat with their father, Zebedee, mending their fishnets. Jesus made the same offer to them, and they were just as quick to follow, abandoning boat and father.

From there he went all over Galilee. He used synagogues for meeting places and taught people the truth of God.

These are the words of life, which in faith become the Living Word.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Witness

Spiritual arranged by Edwin Fissinger. Copyright 1989: Plymouth Music Co. Inc.

Witness for my Lord.
Who'll be a witness for my Lord?

Oh, Lord, what manner of man is this?
All nations in him are blest;
All things are done by his will.
He spoke to the sea and the sea stood still.
Now ain't that a witness for my Lord?
My soul is a witness for my Lord.

Now there was a man of the Pharisees;
His name was Nicodemus and he didn't believe.
The same came to Christ by night;
Wanted to be taught out of human sight.
Nicodemus was a man desired to know
How a man can be born when he is old.

Christ told Nicodemus, as a friend,
“Man, you must be born again”;
Said “Marvel not, man, if you want to be wise;
“Repent, believe, and be baptised.”
Then you’ll be a witness for my Lord.

You read about Samson from his birth;
Strongest man that ever lived on earth.
Way back yonder in ancient times,
He killed ten thousand of the Philistines.
Then old Samson went wand’rin about.
Samson’s strength was never found out,
Till his wife sat upon his knee and said:
“Tell me where your strength lies, if you please.”
Samson’s wife, she talked so fair,
Samson said: “Cut off-a my hair.
Shave my head just as clean as your hand,
and my strength will come, and my strength like a natural man.”
Samson was a witness for my Lord,
Then who’ll be a witness for my Lord?

SERMON

The Ache & The Awe

Lauren Hodgson

MUSICAL RESPONSE

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS & MOMENTS OF AWE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Adapted from prayer written by Bruce Prewer.

God of all things seen and unseen,
if you had insulated yourself from the pain of the world,

then your name could not be love

and our condition would be without hope.

Thank you for being so personally involved in all of life,

and for revealing your complete commitment through the humanity of

Jesus. Through him we pray with hope, in him we pray with love.

Let your *healing* love be known this day in all who suffer...

In body, mind and spirit.

Let your *intimate* love be known today by all who feel forgotten or lost, and

all who are walking in the shadowed valley of despair.

Let your *fierce* love overcome the pain experienced by all who suffer

exploitation, injustice, abuse, neglect, violence or unwarranted

imprisonment.

Let your *nurturing* love today encourage those who are gathering resolve to

make tough decisions, take on new responsibilities,

or break free from some bondage.

Let your *relentless* love this day upset congregations that have become self-

centred or even contemptuous of other churches.

Please reveal your compassion,

Holy One, let your *reconciling* love today gather together those who are

separated; help them to know they are part of something bigger, something

more, something just, and that they are intimately connected to the heart-

beat of creation. We name aloud in prayer those from our Bloor Street and

St. Matthew's communities:

Bloor Street: Ongoing prayer cycle: Nadjib Alamyar, Gaye Frances

Alexander, Brad Antle, Beth Armstrong, Jamie Armstrong and Amelie

Beauregard-Armstrong, Jane and Stephen Armstrong; **Healing and**

Transformation: Jane Zealy Adams, John Alexander, Roeland Hartmans,

Don Matheson, Diane Montgomery, Karl Shuler, the family and friends of

Barry Smyth, Rev. Sam Young and Cindy, his wife, Marion Wall

St. Matthew's: Dave Carter-Whitney's brother, Herb, Nelly

Kimunguyi, Laurie's mother, Shirley, Jayne Cook, Beatrice's mother,

Peduhbun Migizi Kwe/Catherine Brooks, Cynthia Drakes, Dorothy

Henry, Lloyd Batchelor, Shireen, Sadie Dawson and Alex Hodges, Casilda,

Cassandra, Rosie, Daphne and Lilliah, the Alaalyan families, Karen

Hilfman Millson, Joseph Kizza

Let your *inspiring* love this day rejuvenate people of faith around the world, and reinvigorate those who have become weary to the very roots of their souls.

We offer our prayers to you, O holy one, saying together the prayer that Jesus taught...

THE PRAYER OF JESUS

Our Mother and 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, the power and the glory,
forever and ever.

CLOSING HYMN - MV #27 Creator God, You Gave Us Life

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Creator God you gave us life
your image formed within our souls,
yet through the mist of time and space
we search for that which makes us whole

Refrain: Through hands that paint majestic skies,
and voices chanting melody,
with words that reach beyond the page,
we comprehend your mystery.

In ev'ry flow'r and ev'ry tree,
we see your great diversity,

yet greater still we see your love,
expressed in our humanity.

Refrain

When with our hearts, our hands our minds,
we share our gifts with all the world,
our spirits soar beyond the veil,
to touch the very face of God.

Refrain

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

SING AMEN

Amen Siakudumisa (Sing Amen). Author: S. C. Molefe (1991). South African traditional.
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POSTLUDE

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