



## ***Hope Lutheran Church Hybrid Worship Service January 22, 2023 — Epiphany 3***

*We are grateful for the opportunity to live, work and worship on the  
Traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation. Hay ch'qa.*

### **Welcome & Announcements**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Gracious God,

**We have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way. We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of +Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

### **Gathering Hymn: #661 I Love To Tell The Story**

**I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.**

**I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.**

***Refrain:***

***I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.***

**I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
the message of salvation from God's own holy word. *[Refrain]***

**I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long. *[Refrain]***

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all. **And also with you.**

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***Glory to God*** (Hymnal Setting Two, pages 121-22)

***Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. (Refrain)***

***Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Refrain***

***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. Refrain***

***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**

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **Children's Corner**

### **First Reading – Isaiah 9:1-4**

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

*Word of God, word of life.*

***Thanks be to God.***

### **Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

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For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For 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.

*Word of God, word of life.*

*Thanks be to God.*

**Gospel Acclamation** (*Hymnal Setting Two, page 124*)

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

### **Gospel – Matthew 4:12-23**

*The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.*

***Glory to you, O Lord.***

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ‘Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.’ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.’ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

***Praise to you, O Christ.***

### **Sermon**

### **Matthew 4:12-23**



I saw a funny bumper sticker this week that announced, “*You don’t have to believe everything you think.*” It suggested to me that sometimes I need to think again because someone else might have something to change my mind. This is what Jesus was getting at.

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John the Baptist was locked up. It was time for Jesus to take the stage. He would use John's phrase "*Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand*" but with new features — he offered 'good' news and could bring hope and new life to people. The crowds would grow quickly, change what they used to think and gather near.

#### *Reframe*

Jesus had never before been a public figure or had to deal with the multitudes. He knew he needed help. He had just come out of the desert after facing inner temptations and the call on his life. Then he relocated near the common trade route by the Sea of Galilee and looked for people to share his life with. He still looks does that.

Maybe he talked with them before. The two sets of brothers were doing what they had always done trying to provide for the market; and repairing what was broken. Jesus joked that they had transferable skills. What was it about him that drew them in — his vision, his attitude, his priorities? They thought a new call was worth exploring.

The Talmud, an ancient Jewish commentary on the scriptures teaches, "*Those who risk nothing, risk much more.*" Maybe we have to risk a step the dark to find our light. "*Nothing ventured, nothing gained*" is another way we think of that. When the Bishop called me 13 years ago and said, "*I have your call document in hand, how much time do you need.*" I told him I would get right back to him. I phoned my wife and said, "*The Bishop wants to know if we will go to Nanaimo. What do you think?*" She replied, "*Life is too short not to have the adventure.*" And so we came. Maybe the adventure Jesus offered compelled them. How about you?

Matthew quotes from the prophet Isaiah. He held out a vision that God is present right now, to call people away from the shadow of hopelessness. Jesus was doing just that.

He used John's refrain, "*Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven has come near.*" To repent is to have a different way of thinking than before. It called for a different frame of mind. In other words, being a follower means that we are in a process of thinking again, or reframing. How does that work for you? Jesus stopped at synagogues but was mostly with people on the road, and in wide open spaces as he offered a new way of looking at life with God's grace. It was God reframed.

The brothers used old skills, catching fish for supper sometimes, and piloted the boat across the Sea of Galilee when needed. That was nice, but Jesus revealed a

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much bigger world. Learning to trust God and each other in new ways would keep them going with many challenges as they followed up on the call of Christ.

### ***Following***

When someone is up ahead, it is easier to find the way. That is the beauty of following, we don't have break trail. We just have to pay attention to the leader, trust the vision, and keep moving.

The call remains to honour the direction set by Christ. The *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* is underway. Many churches hit pause on doctrinal debates, religious wrangling, millennia of complicated tradition and consider what is really important. Can we hear the call to have "*the same mind and purpose*" mentioned in the second reading.<sup>1</sup> Squabbling and distraction will always threaten to defeat us.

Everyone who frequents a church community, has some kind of story. What got our attention in the first place? Wasn't it Christ saying, "Follow me" that turned the lights on?

### ***The Goal***

Early followers were drawn along. They could have returned home, but there was something compelling about Jesus. There was something warm, some kind of comfort. They were welcomed. It was a new direction. It was a new adventure. It was a reframe.

The crowds would come. He brought hope every time he turned around. His goal was good news for the world. When his message and actions ended at the cross of suffering love. They didn't understand at first, but as was always the case with love and faith, it became clear: God meets us even in the pain and is with us.

How will we live out God's call on our lives? Will forgiveness be shared? Will we get past the dark? What other trails has Christ broken for us? We've been weak, are there new ways to be strong? We've been alone, but are still loved, can we pass that on? Hope moves on the wheels of the Spirit through us to our world, and it enlivens all we bring. As Christ relieves our fears, we learn how to do the same with a touch, a glass of water, a piece of bread, a quilt, a smile, a good word, or any other kindness.

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<sup>1</sup> 1 Corinthians 1:10

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No one was ever forced to follow. It is invitation. It will change us. It will bring hope to the weary. It all started long ago with a man named Jesus on a beach near Capernaum.

He still calls us. Thanks for following him too.  
**Amen.**

**Hymn of the Day #798 Will You Come And Follow Me — *The Summons***

**“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”**

**“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer pray’r in you and you in me?”**

**“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the pris’ners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”**

**“Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”**

**Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

Called into the light of love that redeems, and turns our darkness into wisdom, we pray for your church, your world, and those in need. With the words, *Son of Mary, Chosen One* you are invited to respond **Hear our prayer.**  
*a brief silence*

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Ground of our being, you are the rock that supports us when all is crumbling, the strength that redeems lost causes, the hope that removes shutters from our eyes. Bless **Bishop Kathy** and the congregations of our synod. Today we pray especially for *Faith Lutheran* in Kelowna and **Pastor Brian Krushel**; and *Gloria Dei* in North Vancouver and **Pastor Vida Jaugelis**. Inspire the work of our partnership with the *Anglican Church of Canada* and other churches in our area during this *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Son of Mary, Chosen One, Hear our prayer.*

Breath of blessing, inflate our being with your compassion. Lead us to tread softly on this earth, taking what we need with thanksgiving, and always seeking to share abundance. Let us see the droplet of water, the snowflake, the sky through the eye of wonder. *Son of Mary, Chosen One, Hear our prayer.*

Redeeming God, your example teaches that nothing, that no one, is beyond hope; that lives can be turned around through love and support. Call us to be ones who welcome strangers, who deal with discomfort in order that others might find their way. Empower all organizations that provide food and shelter for refugees, especially the *Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service* and *Canadian Lutheran World Relief. Son of Mary, Chosen One, Hear our prayer.*

Healing God, enable us to find meaning and hope when we deal with illness, grief, disappointment, and difficult times. Call us to be present with others when they feel alone. We pray especially for those who have requested your care and strength  
*Dave C; the family of Doris Picard; Robert & Carol D; Michaela E; Anne G;  
Rosie G; Gail L & family; Ruth N; Carole & Clyde O; Jack R; Janice V; Dan;  
Doris; Ingvar; Lil & Cal; Louise; Maya; Quinn; Zak & family...*  
*Son of Mary, Chosen One, Hear our prayer.*

God of laughter, shared stories, and good times, call us into relationship that we may know what it is not to walk alone. Let us banish fear by having the courage to share, to break down our inner weakness by joining us with others in the common struggle to live and to live abundantly. *Son of Mary, Chosen One, Hear our prayer.*

Redeeming God, put us on side with those who take power away from bullies-- from those on the school grounds to those ruling cities, communities, and nations. Make us examples of how rich life is when we listen to those who think differently, sit with those who confuse us, and speak strongly that every person deserves good things. *Son of Mary, Chosen One, Hear our prayer.*

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Gracious God of justice, we pray in distress and alarm over international political thuggery that leaves millions injured, maimed, hungry and homeless. Our hearts grieve over events in Ukraine, Ethiopia, Haiti, North Korea and China. Bounties of food are stolen or interrupted, property is destroyed and refugees have no place to find shelter. Aggression replaces diplomacy and human decency. Give sanctuary to people who flee from oppression, war, poverty and famine. *Son of Mary, Chosen One, Hear our prayer.*

We praise you for the faithful who have gone ahead of us, both famous and unknown. Help us to leave our nets and follow, and bring us with them to the fullness of your promise of eternal life. *Son of Mary, Chosen One, Hear our prayer.*

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

### **The Peace** [*unmute*]

*The peace of Christ is with you always!*

**And also with you!**

*(We greet each other gently with a wave, a smile,  
or some other gesture of peace)*

### **Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord is with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... (*Pastor continues...*) ... and join their unending hymn:

***Holy, holy, holy*** (*Hymnal, Setting 2, page 130*)

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven 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. Hosanna in the highest.***

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread (*raise the 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.”***



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Again, after supper, he took the cup (*raise 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.”***

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this meal of hope in Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Lord’s Prayer Song** (*link below; inside back cover of hymnal*)

[Mixcord](#)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
Hallowed be your name, Hallelujah.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done,  
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth  
as in heaven, Hallelujah.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.**

**Give us today our daily bread, give us today our bread,  
Give us our bread today, Hallelujah.  
Forgive our sins as we forgive  
Forgive our sins as we forgive those  
who sin against us, Hallelujah.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.**

**Save us from the time of trial, save us from the trial.  
Deliver us from evil, Hallelujah.  
For the kingdom and the power are yours,  
The kingdom and the power are yours,  
the glory now and ever, Hallelujah.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah. Amen.**

### **Communion**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*(those on Zoom will be communed first, and then those in the sanctuary)*

**Bread:** “Take and eat, this is the body of Christ, given for you.”

**Cup:** “Take and drink, this is the blood of Christ, shed for you.”

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***Lamb of God*** (Hymnal, Setting 2, page 135)

***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.***

**Communion Hymn: #574 Here I Am, Lord**

**I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.**

**All who dwell in dark and 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)***

**Benediction:**

The God who faithfully brings forth justice

and breaks the oppressor's rod

+ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,

today and always

**Amen.**

**Sending Song #866 We Are Marching in the Light**

**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, marching we are marching, Oh ho**

**we are marching in the light of God.**

**We are marching, marching we are marching Oh ho,**

**We are marching in the light of God.**

**We are dancing...**

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**We are praying...**

**We are singing...**

Go in peace. Follow in the way of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God!**

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Worship Assistants Today

Pianist: *John Collett*

Hymnologist: (musician selecting hymns): *John Collett*

Reader:

Prayers:

Communion Assistants: *Flo Bender, Marilyn Gross, Carolyn Iles*

Zoom Hosts: *Marlis (Spotlighter); Jamie (C1/PTZ); John (C2).*

Zoom Greeters: *Bill & Caroline Fehr, Sue Grant, Dorothy Pagan*

Presiding: *Pastor Terry Richardson*

*Readings for Sunday, January 29 — Epiphany 4*  
*Micah 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 1:12-31; Matthew 5:1-12*

