



Hope Lutheran Church Worship Service ***January 21, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.***

*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 & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity + one God, who gathers us in these hard times to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new. **Amen.** Let us be honest, confess our sins, and receive God's promise of mercy.

God at the margins:

We have wandered far from your home; again, and again, we lose our way. We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again. 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.

Like the hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces us in tender care. Like manna in the desert, God feeds us with surprising mercy. Like a loving parent, God runs to meet us again this day forgiving our sins for the sake of Christ, leading us from death into life.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn: #587 There's A Wideness In God's Mercy

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment giv'n.

There is welcome for the sinner, and a promised grace made good;
there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.
There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
But we make this love too narrow by false limits of our own;
and we magnify its strictness with a zeal God will not own.

'Tis not all we owe to Jesus; it is something more than all:
greater good because of evil, larger mercy through the fall.

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Make our love, O God, more faithful; let us take you at your word,
and our lives will be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.

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.**

Glory to God (*Hymnal Setting Six, pages 167-68*)

(Refrain)

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

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. (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: re-
ceive 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.***

(Final Refrain)

Glory to God in the highest. Amen, amen.

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 Sav-
ior and Lord. **Amen.**

Children's Corner

First Reading – Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, “Get up, go to Nin-
evah, 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.

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Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading – 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *(Hymnal Setting Six, page 171)*

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Gospel – Mark 1:14-20

The Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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 lake—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

Mark 1:14-20



Over the past few weeks we have followed Jesus at a distance. We saw the kind of domino effect that he would have on some people. Things happen fast in this Gospel and there is a feeling of immediacy to how Mark tells the story.

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John the Baptist was in jail and so Jesus picked up the ball with a message of God's kingdom: *"It's time,"* Jesus says. *"It's near,"* he adds. *"Hey! Do I have your attention?"* And he walked down the beach.

Boats on shore

The idea Kingdom can be painful for people. So many kingdoms and empires ran over people in history. King Herod was a puppet of the Romans who liked to build huge structures and cities to impress the emperor. But when Jesus said, "Kingdom" it was about God's gracious approach to a beloved world. It was news that listeners could turn to and welcome with open hearts. Repent and believe was the way he put it.

Some boats were pulled up on the sand. Simon and Andrew threw nets from the shallows. James and John were fixing nets. They were fishermen but with no wind for their sails, all they could do was drift, so they remained close to shore.

A man spoke to me about his life. He told me that he had a church background and was baptized as a child, but that was all a long time ago. He said he drifted along and wasn't even sure that God had any time for him...

Have you ever just drifted like that? The next thing you know, a lifetime has passed. What does the approach of Jesus mean then?

I said, "God didn't drift away from you. You are loved just as much as when you were baptized. You are still God's dear child." When he paused and said, "I hope so," I replied, "that's how God's love works" was my response and we prayed for renewed faith and hope.

Jesus announced a new kind of Kingdom. A breeze began to blow because the heavens opened. Life could move ahead with hope and courage because now something good is before us. If you remember being confirmed as a young person you probably learned Luther's explanation of *"Thy kingdom come"* from the Lord's Prayer: *"God's kingdom comes on its own without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that it may also come to us."* It's good news.

Good News of God

This Kingdom is about everything good. If sails are empty, a new breeze fills them. If there is discouragement, a new light dawns. If life is lonely and empty, this kingdom shows kind people and bridges of support.

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During my years in prison chaplaincy we borrowed a verse from the Bible for our Mission statement. It was kept before us on memos, books, reports, and so on: *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21)*. It is the work of good news.

The message of God's kingdom moves through the dark like the prow of a ship carrying a cargo of hope. The goods are: interest in people; time to listen; someone to walk with; being noticed for who we are; and a warm and friendly light for those lost in life. This season of Epiphany tells us that the goods are on the way, the light is already shining. Jesus calls us along like sailors on the ship of the church with Simon, Andrew, James, John, and the rest. Add your name to the roster as well.

"I will make you fish for people," doesn't mean using sneaky strategies. No fooling, luring, playing, hooking, or snagging people. Rather, the approach is always gentle, good and respectful because God is already present. That is where the fun is! That's where the sacred moments are. That's where we get our stories that God is with us.

(they) ... followed him

When they first met up with Jesus, these characters dropped everything and followed. They had their reasons. What drew them to turn in God's direction and follow? Mark doesn't tell us much about the disciples, but everyone has a story. What are your reasons for following Jesus along the shore? Is it hope? Acceptance? Compassion? Being noticed?

What can you leave behind? Bad feelings? Loneliness? Boredom? God's Spirit will move us along. God is among us. Turning to such goodness and trusting in unconditional care means the Kingdom has come to us.

What gets you out of bed to come here? What makes you drop everything and follow? What makes, or would make, young people follow along? How will God's Spirit fill our sails and move us along? What do you think? This time of the year as we approach our *Annual General Meeting*, we do well to think about the best way we can follow Christ.

Who will you see this week? How will you be a people person? How will a few minutes of kindness make a difference to someone else? That's what the actions of Jesus teach us.

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Like those in the story we are called to be ourselves, with all that makes us who we are. As we live the life of grace it will spill out for others: our family, those we know, and those we don't know. It's time for a little good news out there. It's our job now.

As Jesus walked on down the beach there were five instead of just one. Four more lives with experience. Four more heads with ideas. Four more sets of eyes and hands. Four more hearts to offer what is good wherever they went with whomever they met.

"It's time," Jesus proclaimed, *"God's kingdom is near."* Let's go along, because when Jesus gathers us it's a good thing. As we follow with faith, loving action, and prayer, God's kingdom comes as blessing to this world in need.
Amen.

Hymn of the Day: #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've 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 Intercession

With gratitude for the gift of Christ, let us draw near to God in prayer, asking mercy for the church, the world, and all in need of God's loving kindness.

(brief silence)

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For your church we pray. You called Jonah to preach repentance to Nineveh; and your Son called his disciples to proclaim repentance and the Good News. Give your church boldness to preach repentance and forgiveness; graciousness and mercy, signs of your never failing love for all. We pray for **Bishop Kathy Martin**; *Faith Lutheran* in Kelowna & **Pastor Brian Krushel**; and *Gloria Dei Lutheran* in North Vancouver & **Pastor Vida Jaugelis**. During this *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*, help your diverse people and clergy work together for the good of all. God of grace, **receive our prayer**.

For skies and seas; for birds and fish; for favorable weather and clean water; and for the well-being of creation; that God raise up advocates and scientists to guide our care for all the earth... God of grace, **receive our prayer**.

For those who provide leadership in our cities and around the world; for not-for-profits and non-governmental agencies; for regional planning commissions and homeless advocates; that God inspire all people to use wealth justly... God of grace, **receive our prayer**.

For the people of Israel and Gaza, Russia and Ukraine. We pray for those who are fleeing their homes; grant them a safe passage. We pray for those who have lost loved ones; be their comforter. We pray for those who are being held hostage; let them see freedom. We pray for all who are injured in body, mind, and spirit; let there be healing. God, you are the Prince of Peace - bring peace to these lands. Encourage all who work for peace, provide aid and medical care, and give them hope in the midst of these conflicts. As politicians and nations consider the next steps, help them be aware of the suffering of all people, and respond with justice. God of grace, **receive our prayer**.

For all those in need; the lonely and bereaved; the forgotten and abandoned; the abused and their abusers. Whatsoever they need, grant in double measure. Especially we ask your blessing on behalf of those who seek our prayers, including:

... *Ahmad H; Bill & Donna B; Richard B; Bill L; Kaela D; Ken D; Gary G; Peggy L; Charlotte M; Marjorie M; Hans N; Janet O; Paddy O; Birgit S; Bonnie W; Alana; Bernie & Erna; Chittri; Colleen; Ezra; Gloria; Graham; Julie's family; Kristi; Leah & the Nicholsons; Louise; Makai; Margaret; Quinn; Tanu; Tracy; Zack; ...*

May your love, and the love and faith of those who support them, lead them to firmly cling to your promise of compassion and healing. God of grace, **receive our prayer**.

For this congregation, Hope, and all the communities where our members and friends live; for families big and small, near and far; that God's steadfast love serve as a model for all relationships... God of grace, **receive our prayer**.

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For mercy, when like Jonah, we want to run from the tasks you have called us to do. Renew our faith, shape our actions to model Jesus' compassion. Remind us of the ancestors in faith whose lives serve as an example of gospel living... God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen**
(brief silence)

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)*

The Offering & Prayer

God of mercy and grace, they eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need. through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. **Amen.**

Words for music played during offering:

Have thine own way, Lord, have thine own way!

You are the potter, I am the clay.

Mould me and make me, after your will,

While I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have Thine own way, Lord, have Thine own way!

Hold o'er my being, absolute sway!

Fill with your spirit till all shall see,

Christ only, always, living in me.

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. *(Pastor continues...)*

Holy, holy, holy *(Hymnal, Setting 6, page 173)*

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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 God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath. *We praise you, O God.* Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future. *We bless you, O God.* We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now. *We thank you, O God.*

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.***

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 his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering, within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

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

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Happy are those who trust in the Lord.

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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.”

Lamb of God (*Hymnal, Setting 6, page 174*)

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 Hymns:

Hymn #583 Take My Life, That I May Be

Refrain:

Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;

take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;

take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee. *[Refrain]*

Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;

take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose. *[Refrain]*

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;

take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee. *[Refrain]*

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine;

take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne. *[Refrain]*

Hymn #697 Just A Closer Walk with Thee

Refrain:

Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea;

daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

I am weak but thou art strong: Jesus, keep me from all wrong;

I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *[Refrain]*

Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?

Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *[Refrain]*

When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;

guide me gently, safely o'er to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore. *[Refrain]*

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Blessing

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 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]***

Go in peace. The Lord is with you.

Thanks be to God!

+

Worship Assistants Today

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

Reader: *Steven Musgreave*

Prayers: *Susan Hainsworth*

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

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

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

Usher: *Fred & Carol Wilke*

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Musician: *John Collett*

Presiding: *Pastor Terry Richardson*

Readings for Sunday, January 28 — Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

Announcements:

For your information, we have a “sock basket” in the narthex of the church as a way to gather Socks for the Unhoused in our community.

