

Holy Trinity Anglican Church Metcalfe  
EPIPHANY 5  
February 5, 2023  
Reverend Michael Fleming

Fr. Michael: As we seek to embrace our calling into the Light, we acknowledge that the land upon which we live and where we worship in the beauty of nature and holiness lie on the unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people.

People: **Together, may we walk the pathways in a spirit of trust, hope and reconciliation.**

Fr. Michael: WONDERFUL God, we gather today to celebrate your presence in the lives of faithful people. Send your Spirit to meet us here and guide us into your depths, that we might begin to glimpse and feel your grace: what eyes have not seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived – all this you have prepared for those who love you. We pray this in the name of Jesus, Your Mystery, Your Wisdom, Your glory. **Amen**

(The Reverend Susan A. Blane, United Church of Christ Worship Ways)

Fr. Michael: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **and also with you.**

Fr. Michael: As people called into the Light, as pilgrims following the Way, we pray, "Almighty God, People: to you all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hidden. 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 Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Fr. Michael: We walk in the light of all the saints who have gone before and those with whom we journey in this present; with them all, we say, "Glory to God in the highest, People: and peace to his 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.**

Fr. Michael: Merciful God, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed of all our sins and serve you with clear minds; through Jesus Christ our Lord who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen**

Fr. Michael: God of compassion and justice, the worship you choose for us is to loose the bonds of injustice, to let the oppressed go free, to share bread with the hungry and to shelter the homeless poor. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn and your healing shall spring up quickly. So in praise and wonder we ask you to help us to worship you not with our words alone but with our hearts and our lives. Glory and honour be to you, Creator of a new heaven and a new earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Reader: A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practised righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast

day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer, you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

[If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called

the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.] ISAIAH 58:1-9A (9B-12)

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: Lord, with open arms you welcome all who call upon your name; who acknowledge you as Lord and look to you in faith. No one stands outside your circle of mercy and love. And we come to offer you our worship to declare that you are our God and we are your children, called and chosen by you from the very beginning. Through the presence of your Holy Spirit, open our eyes wide to see you here and now; open our minds to receive your Truth and our mouths to speak and sing Your praises. You alone are our God – worthy of all praise and honour and worship now and until the end of time. Amen (from re:Worship)

Reader: Our psalm for this new day is Psalm 112 (1-10). Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord and have great delight in his commandments! Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last for ever.

All: **Happy are they who have given to the poor.**

Reader: Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion. It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

All: **Happy are they who have given to the poor.**

Reader: For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance. They will not be afraid of any evil rumours; their heart is right; they put their trust in the Lord.

All: **Happy are they who have given to the poor.**

Reader: Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies. They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast for ever; they will hold up their head with honour.

All: **Happy are they who have given to the poor.**

Reader: The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.

All: **Happy are they who have given to the poor.**

Reader: A reading from Paul's first letter to the Church in Corinth (1 Corinthians 2: 1-16)

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him

crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him" - these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: Loving God, we seek to follow your desires and to walk in your ways; to observe your commandments to love you, our neighbours and our self. As your servants, may we labour for your purposes, building, gardening, watering, reconciling - growing peace. May we work together, sister and brother, brother and sister as God's field, God's gifts.

**Amen**

(Terri Seeking Authentic Voices {adapted by RMF})

Fr. Michael: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ according to the blessed St. Matthew (St. Matthew 5:13-20)

People: **Glory be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

This is the very Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Fr. Michael; The strength of our faith is built upon the firmness of the foundation upon which it is grounded. So, we affirm that, "I believe in one God, the Father Almighty

All: **creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was**

**conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.**

Reader: Gathered as salt and light, we now pray, Jesus said, 'You are the light of the world and the salt of the earth'. We pray now for the world in which we are called to let our light shine, remembering especially where the darkness seems overwhelming like in Ukraine. We pray for the leaders of the world to recognize the light in which they make decisions and follow your will and your will alone.

Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: Lord, provide faithful pastors and lay leaders to bring and preach good news to teach your ways.

Reader: Strengthen the faith of your children through study of the Word and sharing of the sacraments. Bless the members of our congregation that we may be salt and light to all, remembering especially those absent from us through illness or despair, remembering especially Myra, Louise, Marjorie, Roy, Richard and Deb L., Howard, Irene, Beth, Zachariah, Sarah, Cheryl, and Jeanette.

Bring to the faith Lord, those who do not yet know you and help us to share the good news of your love with all who seek you. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer**

Reader: Have mercy on all nations and bless our land. Bring honesty and justice, peace and safety everywhere. Bless and protect all people in their work, their recreation, their rest and help us all to have a deep sense of calling and vocation to do the very best we can at what we have been called to do. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer**

Reader: Lord, lift up the fallen and satisfy the needs of the refugees in our midst. Be with all who seek justice and equity for all, remembering particularly Shane, our Bishop; Anne, our Metropolitan; Linda, our Primate; as well as The Diocese of Jerusalem and Archbishop Hosam Naoum, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and Bishop Susan Johnson and Bishop Michael Pryse. We also pray for St. James, Otter Lake and all who minister there and for or all Regional Deans in our diocese. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: Father, your Son is the Light of the world shining through the darkness. Teach us to love one another as you love us so that we may be instruments of your peace and joy. Hear our prayers, for the sake of your Son Jesus who lives and reigns and shines with you and the Holy Spirit, Light without end. Amen

Fr. Michael: As we seek love and light, we pray, People: God of glory, we confess that we have not really sought your face; we ignore the needs of the poor and turn away from our own family and friends. We allow the gospel to go stale and hide the light you have given us under our own bushel-barrels. Forgive us, Lord; give us a taste of your grace. By the renewing of your Spirit inspire and empower us again to show the wonder of your love for us in Jesus of Nazareth. **Amen**

Fr. Michael: The Lord is faithful in all his works and gracious in his deeds. The Lord upholds all who are falling, raises up all who are bowed down. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Thanks be to God! Let us be salt and light one to each other, giving and receiving forgiveness in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the light and peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: God of compassion and forgiveness , receive our offering this new day and make us one with he who is our light and our peace.

**Amen**

Fr. Michael: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Fr. Michael: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Fr. Michael: Eternal God, Source of all being, we give you thanks and praise for your faithful love. You call us into friendship with you and with one another, to be your holy people, a sign of your presence on the world. When those we trust betray us, unfailingly you remain with us. When we injure others, you confront us in your love and call to the paths of righteousness. You stand with the weak and those, broken and alone whom you have always welcomed home, making the first last and the last first. Therefore, we raise our voices with angels and archangels. Forever praising you and saying,  
People: **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.**

Fr. Michael: Blessed are you, O Holy One; when Hagar was driven into the wilderness, you followed her and gave her hope. When Joseph was sold into bondage, you turned malice to your people's good. When you called Israel out of slavery, you brought them out of the wilderness into the promised land. When you people were taken into exile, you wept with them by the rivers of Babylon, and carried them home.

People: **Restore us O Lord, let your face shine!**

Fr. Michael: At the right time you sent your Anointed One to stand with the poor, the outcast and the oppressed. Jesus touched lepers and the sick, and he healed them. He accepted water from a woman in Samaria and offered her the water of new life. Christ knew the desolation of the cross and opened the way for all humanity into the redemption of your reconciling love. On the night he was betrayed, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, gave it to them and said, "Take and eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper, he took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sin. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Loving and Holy One, recalling Christ's death and resurrection, we offer you these gifts, longing for the bread of tomorrow and the wine of the age to come.

People: **Dying, you destroyed our death; rising, you restored our life; Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Fr. Michael: Pour out your Spirit on these gifts that through them you may sustain us in our hunger for your peace. We hold before you all those whose lives are marked by suffering, our sisters and brothers. When we are broken and cast aside, embrace us in your love.

People: **Restore us O Lord; let your face shine!**

Fr. Michael: Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O Source of all life, now and forever. **Amen.**

Fr. Michael: Because Jesus has gifted this to his Church, we pray,

People: **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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Fr. Michael: We break the bread of life, and that life is the Light of the world.

People: **God here among us, Light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

Fr. Michael: The gifts of God for the children of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Fr. Michael: Eternal God, in you we find peace beyond our understanding. May we who share in this heavenly banquet be instruments of your peace on earth. This we pray in the name of Jesus, the Light of the world. Amen Fr. Michael: O eternal Trinity, my sweet love! You, Light, give us light; You, wisdom, give us wisdom; You, Supreme Strength, strengthen us. Today, eternal God let our cloud be dissipated so that we may perfectly know and follow your truth, your path, in truth with free and simple hearts.

(Ste. Catherine of Sienna from The Flowering of the Soul)

All: **Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Fr. Michael: As you have been fed, go and feed the hungry; as you have been set free, go and release the imprisoned; as you have heard – PROCLAIM. And the blessing which you have received from the Creator God, the Redeeming Son and the Empowering Spirit be with you this day and always. **Amen**

Worship follows the Holy Eucharist in the Book of Alternative Services.

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