

Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Metcalfe
EPIPHANY 2
JANUARY 14, 2024
Reverend Michael Fleming

Fr. Michael: As we walk in the light of the Incarnation and Nativity, we acknowledge that the land in which we shine our light lies on the unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people.

People: **May we walk in the light as sisters and brothers in a spirit of reconciliation and forgiveness.**

Fr. Michael: Open our eyes Lord Jesus to the world around us. Show us what we should see but from which we hide our eyes. Show us how people live in this world and the reality of their days. Give us courage to do what you do and to “come and see”.

People: **Open our eyes Lord Jesus to the shape of your Kingdom. Show us what life could be like if only we could see with wisdom. Show us what we could do to change things forever with you. Give us courage to have a vision to “come and see”.**

Fr. Michael: Open our eyes Lord Jesus to the people all around us. Show us what we should see but what we fail to notice. Show us what people are saying to us and what they long for. Give us courage to be where you are and to “come and see”. (Susan Durber, Monthly Prayers from the Christian Aid website)

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 Jesus called his first disciples and simply asked them to follow where he led, so too we go where Jesus leads us, saying,

People: **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 are not alone on our journey towards discipleship but are surrounded by such a great crowd of witnesses, both the living and the dead who join us as we say,

People: **Glory to God in the highest, 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: Almighty God, your Son our Saviour Jesus is the light of the world. May your people, illuminated by your Word and sacraments shine in the radiance of his glory, so that he may be known, worshipped and obeyed to the very ends of the earth; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

Amen

Fr. Michael: Insistent God, by night and by day you summon your slumbering people, so stir us with your voice and enlighten our lives with your grace so that we may fully give ourselves to Christ's call to mission and ministry.

Amen (Suzanne Fageol from The Revised Common Lectionary Prayers)

Reader: A reading from the First Book of Samuel. (1 Samuel 3:1-20) Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." [Then the Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever." Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him." As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with

him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: Heavenly God, Creator of a universe filled with wonder and so many still-hidden mysteries. Help us in our modern, sometimes confusing and fast changing world to pause and to reflect on your glory and your unending grace and in the stillness listen, like Samuel, for your voice speaking to us both in community and alone.

All: **Amen** (Mike Eliot, from this/church website)

Reader: Our psalm for this new day is Psalm 139

God, you search me and you know me. Before I sit, you know where I will rise.

People: **God, you search me and you know me. Before I speak, you know what I will say.**

Reader: God, you search me and you know me in my joy and my despair, in my breathing in and my breathing out.

People: **God, you search me and you know me. Your knowledge is too deep to reach, too vast to understand.**

Reader: God, you search us and you know us. Search us, O God, and know our hearts. (Joanna Thurman Williams from Consider Your Call)

Reader: A reading from the first letter of Paul to the people of Corinth (1 Corinthians 6: 12-20)

"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: Jesus comes along side each of us and calls us by name: a simple call, a hard call because following requires leaving. We look around to see who else Jesus is talking to and all we see are the trappings of our lives. It's hard to leave our nets and to

walk away from the lake; but we have come this far to this place where we can listen to the Voice and be transformed.

All: **Alleluia!** (Joanna Harader, from Spacious Faith)

Celebrant: 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. John (St. John 1: 35-51)

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

Fr. Michael: The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When 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?" He 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. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He 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 next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Fr. Michael: This is the very Gospel of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily

Fr. Michael: As we leave the old year behind us and prepare to embrace all the possibilities of the new, we affirm the heart and foundation of our faith as we say,

All: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, 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: Eternal God, you are the maker of all and we all are your creation, people formed in your image, as individuals and as community; fed and nourished with understanding of who you are and of who and whose we are. We worship you today in recognition of your calling, of your communicating, of your caring to invite us to share in your creative and healing work. We are here because we have heard you speak in us and through others. Help us, dear Lord, to always respond to you and your invitation into your grace. Lord, in your mercy

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: God of all moments, of our days and our nights you speak and you act in the world around us, not only to call all people to you but also to direct and guide us in the ways of healing and wholeness. Awaken us Lord to hear what you would say to us. Help us to open our ears and our hearts to your presence. Help us to know when it is your Voice we are hearing and when it is our own prejudices and desires to which we are paying heed. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: Lord, we pray that your Church may rise with renewed commitment in answer to your call, that your people may be instruments of your peace and your grace. In our diocesan cycle this week, we pray for Shane, our Bishop; Anne, our Metropolitan; Linda, our Primate; as well as our Community Ministries: Centre 105, Cornerstone Housing for Women, Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre, Refugee Ministry and Belong Ottawa: Centre 454; St. Luke's Table; and The Well. We also pray for Holy Trinity, Metcalfe, Reverend Michael Fleming and all others who minister there. From our own parish, we hold before you Lisa, Marjorie, Beth, Randy, Howard, Irene, Richard, Deb, Leonard, Louise, Sarah, Jeanette, Cheryl, Zachariah and those who are known to you alone. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: Lord, we pray for those who consider themselves unworthy or inadequate to answer your call or to run from it. Give them a new vision, a vision in which you are their strength and their hope. Help them to know that sometimes you choose strangely and that even they are worthy. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: We pray for those who, in answering your call, must leave the known and the familiar for the unknown, the oasis for desert place, the comfortable pew for the uncomfortable street. We pray for all who are seeking and discerning your will for and in their lives. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: We pray too for those who are in want or need - for those of us and the larger community who suffer in body or in spirit. We pray for the healers who walk among us, for first responders and those who walk the lonely, dark and dangerous byways in search of the lost. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: Wonderful God, we praise you for the gifts of the Holy Spirit which you continue to shower upon us. Help us to be faithful disciples of all that Jesus taught us. Inspire us to look out into our world with Jesus' loving eyes as we seek to discern your divine sparks around us.

Reader: Guide us so that we understand how you want us to be messengers of your good news in our communities and our diocese. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Hear our prayer**

Reader: Loving God, bless us all with an abundance of faith, with fruitful ministries and joyfilled lives. Bless us and all who gather together wherever you call them to continue the work of Jesus, who came to heal, save and deliver us.

All: **Amen** (Ad. from Richard J. Fairchild from Kirshalom website)

Fr. Michael: Let us as broken yet redeemed people and community pray, Holy God

People: **we confess that we do not always love our neighbour and that we often despise others even to the point of hatred. We confess that we have been hurt by others and that reconciliation and forgiveness at times are just impossible for us to offer to others. But, we know that nothing is impossible with you and so we come to you, seeking healing and wholeness. Help us whenever possible, to live in peace with others, to seek reconciliation and healing and forgiveness. For your Son Jesus came and lived among us, was betrayed and denied, abused and put to death. He rose again and came with a message of peace to those who had denied him and abandoned him. May we walk in his ways.**

Fr. Michael: Nothing is impossible with God. There is no place you can go, no end of the earth to which you can run where God cannot find you and bring you home in love. There is nothing on earth or beyond this life that will ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. You are forgiven, we are forgiven; you are loved, we are loved; you are reconciled with God, we are reconciled with God and with one another. Go and live in the love of God through the guidance and power of the blessed Trinity of Father, Son and Spirit. **Amen**

Fr. Michael: May the peace and shalom of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you**

WE SHARE THE PEACE OF THE LORD ONE WITH ANOTHER.

Fr. Michael: Holy God, you have revealed your Son as Messiah. May we hear his word and follow you and live as children of the light. We ask this in the name of Jesus.

All: **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: It is indeed right to thank you and praise you, holy and gracious God, creator of all things, ruler of heaven and earth, sustainer of life, for you are the source of all goodness, rich in mercy and abounding in love; you are faithful to your people in every generation, and your word endures for ever. Therefore with angels and archangels, with the fellowship of saints and the company of heaven, we glorify your holy name, evermore praising you and saying,

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Fr. Michael: We praise you, merciful Father, not as we ought, but as we are able, because in your tender love you gave the world your only Son, in order that the world might be saved through him. He made you known by taking the form of a servant, healing the sick, liberating the oppressed, reaching out to the lost. Betrayed, reviled, and nailed to the cross, he confronted the power of sin and disarmed it for ever. In his offering of himself, he became the perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Redeemed by Christ, we have been adopted as your children; by your pardon you have made us worthy to praise you. 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 sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." In obedience to him and with grateful hearts we approach your holy table, remembering our Saviour's sacrifice, and rejoicing in his victory. Confident in his sovereign purpose, we declare our faith.

All: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Fr. Michael: Send your Holy Spirit on us that as we receive this bread and this cup we may partake of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving. May we be renewed in his risen life, filled with love, and strengthened in our will to serve others; and make of our lives, we pray, a pure and holy sacrifice, acceptable to you, knitting us together as one in your Son Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and forever.

All: **Amen**

Fr. Michael: Called into service and blessed and loved into ministry, we share with all followers of Jesus throughout time and space as 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.**

WE SHARE THE GIFTS OF GOD WITH ONE ANOTHER IN THANKSGIVING AND HOPE

Fr. Michael: God of glory, you nourish us with bread from heaven. Fill us with your Spirit, that through us your light might shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus. **Amen**

Fr. Michael: O God, the giver of all good gifts, you have given us life; you have bestowed your love on us and that love includes your plan for each of us. What are we to do? All life is a call and response. We pray for the grace to hear God's word and the hearts to respond. We are ready to listen. Help us to listen to the rhythm of each day, day by day, so that we shall not be overwhelmed with thoughts of the future. Guide us into that future so that we may know whose we are. We shall listen; we shall listen to the voices of those witnesses who have lived before us; we shall listen to the voices of those who share life with us and give us guidance and encouragement for it is clear that whatever plans you have for us, we will never walk alone. We will listen to our feelings as we grow and change. And even though we want easy answers, we know that what we want the most is to be in relationship with you. So when we respond as individuals and as a faith family, may our response be to embrace your love for all your creation. Oh God, we know that our vocation is truly a gift of your love. Lord, we are we, what am I to do? Speak Lord, for I, for we are listening.

All: **Amen**

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: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **the maker of heaven and earth.**

Fr. Michael: Blessed be the name of the Lord,

People: **from this time forth for evermore.**

Fr. Michael: The blessing, mercy and grace of God Almighty - Father, Son and Holy Spirit – be upon you, be within you, be among us this day, this week and forevermore.

All: **Amen**

Worship follows the Holy Eucharist in the Book of Alternative Services Copyright © 1985 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada and/or Eucharistic Prayers, Services of the Word, and Night Prayer © 2001 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. All rights reserved. Reproduced under licence from ABC Publishing, Anglican Book Centre, a ministry of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, from Anglican Liturgical Library. Further copying is prohibited.