

Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Metcalfe
EPIPHANY 3
JANUARY 21, 2024
Reverend Michael Fleming

Fr. Michael: As we gather as those invited to be ministers of the gospel in word and in deed, we acknowledge that this sacred space lies on the unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people.

People: **Together, let us continue to journey in a spirit of true reconciliation and shared story.**

Fr. Michael: Pecking away at our computers or sitting in a tangle of traffic,

People: **we wait for you, God of all words, to speak to us.** Fr. Michael: Pacing the halls of a hospital or sitting outside the Principal's office,

People: **we wait for you, God of comfort, to fill us with hope.**

Fr. Michael: In the silence of each night or at the beginning of each new day's journey,

People: **we wait for you, Steadfast Love, for you are our safe place and our refuge.** (Thom Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies)

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 and blessed with this community, we pray,

People: **Almighty God, 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: As people blessed and as people called, with all the saints in heaven and on this good earth, we celebrate you 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, 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 Lord, who loves and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

Fr. Michael: Jesus called Simon and Andrew, James and John and the others. No questions asked, no assurances sought, they dropped their nets and walked into the future, leaving their families and their boats on the shores of the Galilee. We hear you calling us Lord and we want to drop our nets, leave our boats and follow. Help us to let go.

All: **Amen**

Reader: A reading from the book of Jonah. (Jonah 3: 1-10) The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, 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 the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. Humans and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish." 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.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: Praise the God of all creation. Worship the One who calls us – speaking with a different voice, offering an unexpected invitation. Celebrate the presence of our loving God and rejoice, for the realm of God is near.

All: **Amen** (from the Ministry Matters website, Mary J. Scifes and B. J. Beu, editors)

Reader: Our psalm for this new day is from Psalm 62

For God alone my soul in silence waits; truly, my hope is in him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.

All: **Take refuge in God, all you people.**

Reader: In God is my safety and my honour; God is my strong rock and my refuge. Put your trust in him always, O people, pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge.

All: **Take refuge in God, all you people.**

Reader: Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath, even those of low estate cannot be trusted. On the scales they are lighter than a breath, all of them together.

All: **Take refuge in God, all you people.**

Reader: Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride; though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.

All: **Take refuge in God, all you people.**

Reader: God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, that power belongs to God. Steadfast love is yours, O Lord, for you repay everyone according to his deeds.

All: **Take refuge in God, all you people.**

Reader: A reading from Paul's first letter to the community at Corinth (1 Corinthians 12: 1-11)
Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be ignorant. You know that when you were gentiles you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: Was Mozart's music for his ears alone? Was Starry Night only for Van Gogh's eyes? Are discerners of spirits better than those who prophesy? Is it better to be a healer or a preacher? Was Mother Teresa more important than the beggar who opened the door for her? Is the colour red better than blue? All gifts are from the same Spirit. They are each a part of the whole and are given to each of us for each other and for the common good. Lord, help us to understand and thank you for all the gifts.

All: **Amen**

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. Mark (St. Mark 1: 14-20)

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

Fr. Michael: 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 sea - 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.

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

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

Homily

Fr. Michael: We are family, bound to one another by Christ and called to share ministry with one another. As family, we hold to certain beliefs which the Church has affirmed through the generations by saying,

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 us all and we are your creation, people formed in your image as individuals and as community; formed and fed and furnished 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 within us and through others. Help us, dear Lord to always respond to you and your invitation to share in your grace. Lord, in your love,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: God of all moments, of our days and our nights, you speak and you act in the world which surrounds 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, dear Lord, to hear what you would say to us. Help us to open our ears, our eyes and our hearts to your presence. Help us to know when it is your Voice we are hearing and when it is our prejudices and desires to which we are listening. Lord, in your love,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: Lord, we pray that your Church may rise up with renewed commitment in answer to your call, that all your people may be instruments of your grace and love. We pray for those who believe themselves to be inadequate and so they dismiss or avoid your calling in their lives. Give them a new vision, a vision in which you are their strength and their hope. Lord, in your love,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: We pray for those who, in answering your call, must leave the known places for the unknown, the oasis for the desert, the comfortable for the uncertain. Grant them courage and steadfast faith to trust you in all things. Lord, in your love,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: We pray this day for those who are in want or need and for those who hear your call to minister to them. In our diocese this week, we pray for Shane, our Bishop; Anne, our Metropolitan; Linda, our Primate; as well as The Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples, Sacred Circle, The Ministry of Reconciliation and our National Indigenous Archbishop, The Most Rev. Christopher Harper. We pray for St. Paul's, Almonte and The Reverend Jonathon Kouri. 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. 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. In our parish of Holy Trinity, we pray for Lisa, Richard, Deb, Leonard, Randy, Howard, Irene, Louise, Marjorie, Beth, Jeanette, Cheryl, Zachariah and those who are known to you alone. We pray for all who seek your face in the face of those who come to them in your name, your voice in the words spoken out of love, your warmth in the embrace of compassion shared. May we always remember that we are called to go into the desert places and there offer cups of water, loaves of bread and hearts of love to others. Lord, in your love,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: Loving God, bless us all with abundant faith, fruitful ministries and joyfilled lives. Bless us and all those who gather together to continue the work of Jesus who came to heal, to save, and to deliver us all. In his blessed name we pray. People:

Amen

Fr. Michael: God, you have given each of us many gifts,

People: **but sometimes we cannot recognize that some gifts are what gift we have to share and so we hide it under a barrel. God, you remind us that all gifts are needed, but sometimes we let ourselves be convinced that some gifts are more special than others. God, you call us to work, to live, to love together as parts of one body, but sometimes we decide that membership in the body is limited by our understandings and by the blinders we wear. God, for the times when we have ignored, mislabelled or scoffed at your gifts or when we have cut someone from the body of your Son, we offer words of repentance and ask for your forgiveness and your grace.**

Fr. Michael: God is the giver of many gifts; God is the creator of the one body. God is slow to anger and quick to forgive; God helps us to honour and to share all the gifts of all our sisters and brothers. God helps us to heal from our wounds and reunite the body for we are forgiven, loved and accepted by God – Father, Son and Spirit – today and always.

All: **Alleluia!**

WE SHARE THE SHALOM OF GOD WITH ALL OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS

Fr. Michael: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: Loving God, before the world began, you called us. Make holy all that we offer you this day and strengthen us in that calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Spirit, now and forever.

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 right to give you thanks and praise, O Lord, our God, sustainer of the universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Fr. Michael: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home; by your will they were created and have their being.

People: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Fr. Michael: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill; you made us the stewards of creation.

People: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Fr. Michael: But we turn against you, and betray your trust; and we turn against one another. Again and again you call us to return. Through the prophets and sages you reveal your righteous law. In the fullness of time you sent your Son, born of a woman, to be our Saviour. He was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities. By his death he opened to us the way of freedom and peace.

People: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Fr. Michael: Therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

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: Blessed are you, Lord our God, for sending us Jesus, the Christ, who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, gave it to his friends, and said, "Take this, and eat it: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper, he took the cup of wine; he gave you thanks, 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."

All: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Fr. Michael: Gracious God, we recall the death of your Son Jesus Christ, we proclaim his resurrection and ascension, and we look with expectation for his coming as Lord of all the nations. We who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring you these gifts. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this offering of your Church, that we who eat and drink at this holy table may share the divine life of Christ our Lord.

All: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Fr. Michael: Pour out your Spirit upon the whole earth and make it your new creation. Gather your Church together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, where peace and justice are revealed, that we, with all your people, of every language, race, and nation, may share the banquet you have promised; through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, all honour and glory are yours, creator of all.

People: **Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.**

Fr. Michael: Gathering all our thoughts and prayers into one, we share in the ministry to which we have been called as individuals and as community 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 BREAD AND WINE WITH ONE ANOTHER

Fr. Michael: Eternal God, the refuge and help of all your children, we praise you for all that you have given us, for all that you have done for us, for all that you are to us. In our weakness, you are our strength; in our darkness, you are our light; in our sorrow, you are our comfort and hope. We cannot number our blessings; we cannot declare your love. For all your blessings we bless you. May we live as in your presence and love the things and the people you love, and serve you in our daily lives through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen** (St. Boniface 672-754 CE)

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: You call us, Wanderer of seashores and sidewalks, inviting us to sail away from our snug safe harbours into the uncharted waters of faith, to wander off our

predictable paths to follow you into the unpredictable footsteps of the kingdom; to leave the comfort of our homes and accompany you into the uncomfortable neighbourhoods that we usually avoid at all cost. So, now go into the world in the power of the Spirit, bearing in your hands the gifts with which you and this fellowship have been blessed and go, tell everyone what you have seen and heard and what you feel and know in the name of the blessed and holy Trinity – Father, Son and Spirit. Amen

People: **and Alleluia!**

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