

Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Metcalfe
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 18, 2026
Reverend Dr. Tom Hubschmid

Invitation to Worship

Opening Sentence

Celebrant: The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.
To all who receive him, he gave power to become children of God.
John 1

The Gathering of the Community

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

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us be grateful for the land on which we gather to worship today and acknowledge it as the ancestral, unceded territory of our neighbours the Algonquin-Anishinaabe.

All: In a spirit of reconciliation, may we always seek to respect the history, spirituality, and culture of Indigenous Peoples and uphold our continuing responsibility as treaty people.

Celebrant: Almighty God,
People: **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.**

God's Plan Of Salvation

Celebrant: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

**All: who has blessed us in Christ
with all the spiritual blessings of heaven.**

Celebrant: God chose us in Christ
before the world was made

**All: to be holy and blameless,
and to live by his love in his presence.**

Celebrant: God planned through Jesus Christ

All: to bring us to himself as his children,

Celebrant: that we might praise the glory of his grace,

All: his free gift to us in the Beloved.

Celebrant: In Christ we gain redemption;
through his blood our sins are forgiven.

All: How rich is the grace of God!

Collect Of The Day

Celebrant: Almighty God,
your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
is the light of the world.

May your people,
illumined by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed
to the ends of the earth;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

The Proclamation of The Word

Reader: A reading from the Book Of Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God." And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might

be gathered to him, for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: Psalm 40:1-12

I waited patiently upon the Lord;

All: **he stooped to me and heard my cry.**

Reader: He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and clay;

All: **he set my feet upon a high cliff and made my footing sure.**

Reader: He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;

All: **many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the Lord.**

Reader: Happy are they who trust in the Lord!

All: **they do not resort to evil spirits or turn to false gods.**

Reader: Great things are they that you have done, O Lord my God! how great your wonders and your plans for us!

All: **there is none who can be compared with you.**

Reader: Oh, that I could make them known and tell them!

All: **but they are more than I can count.**

Reader: In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure

All: **you have given me ears to hear you;**

Reader: Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required,

All: **and so I said, "Behold, I come.**

Reader: In the roll of the book it is written concerning me:

All: **'I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep in my heart.'**"

Reader: I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation;

All: behold, I did not restrain my lips; and that, O Lord, you know.

Reader: Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance;

All: I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the great congregation.

Reader: You are the Lord; do not withhold your compassion from me;

All: let your love and your faithfulness keep me safe for ever.

Reader: A reading from the First Letter Of Paul to the Corinthians (1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9)

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (1:29-42)

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

Celebrant: The next day John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before

me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God." 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 ism 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 Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily - Radical Kindness
(ISAIAH 49:1-7; JOHN 1:29-42)

Holy God, may only the truth be spoken and only the truth heard. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

So, I'll level with you. Reading the scripture passages this week, a message landed on my heart. But I realized when it came time to write this sermon that to get from a teaching of the texts to the application for life that I want to talk about, that I'd lose all my time to close reading and never get to the point. And worse: that I'd run the risk of sounding like one of those guys who is trying to connect a few too many photos and newspaper clippings and notes all with yarn and tacks. So, I'm gonna do something that I think is not very good practice but feels right this week. I'm going

to skip over the Bible interpretation, and just talk about how we should live. Here's what I want to say.

To live a spiritual life, in the way of Jesus, is more than finding personal wholeness; it's more than finding in God: the something missing in our lives. It's at least that. But it's more. The spiritual life, in the way of Jesus, is to find in God a wholeness that constantly offers—even empties itself—in self-giving. The spiritual life, in the way of Jesus, is to pour out from our wholeness with God to try as we might to help others find wholeness: to help others find justice, find love, find care, food, clothing, friendship, belonging.

Spiritual wholeness comes as we meditate or read the Bible or participate in Sunday worship or get in touch with the natural world. Those things are a must for the spiritual life. We should at least have some measure of personal spiritual wellness. But beyond those basics of spiritual self-care, the way of Christ is to pour out from an overflowing cup into the lives of those we meet; to pour out from an overflowing cup into the towns in which we live, and the countries in which we word and vote and serve. Jesus comes to us, as John says, “full of grace and truth,” and from that fullness he “takes away the sin of the world.” And he does so by offering his life in service to the poor, the sick, the hopeless, the lost. And in the most intense moment of his self-offering, he ultimately takes the place of a sinner on the cross, so that, in turn, all people can receive from him his place as a child of God. He takes our place as sinners and give us his place as a child of God

As your preacher, I've spoken mainly about how to find or grow in a deeper relationship with God through Christ—so that we can experience more fully the personal wholeness and wellness that comes from being healed and reconciled to God by Christ. Less often have I emphasized what other preachers make the bread and butter of their preaching diet, and it's this: that we are called to live with a radical kindness toward our neighbours. Our love is meant to be expectation-defying, and, even, world shaping. But how often do you, like me, discover that you are not ready to love someone who you think is downright wrong. Just the other day I caught myself thinking, I don't want to talk to people who travel to the USA right now! Christian kindness is for even those we have

good reason to be mean to. That even stands when you're mad at someone driving poorly.

Let it sink in anew how Paul wrote in Romans 5, "while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly." We can miss the radicality of God's kindness here; especially if we hear "ungodly" and think, oh, it's just a word religious zealots use to shame people who aren't actually that bad or at fault. True, God does see through the B.S. of self-righteous zealots. But God's radical kindness is expectation-defying, in that, if I could re-word Paul's sentence: "at the right time, Christ died for" even people who do not deserve our kindness.

The human way with each other is to forever repay evil for evil. Sometimes God deals with us on our own terms, and it's called wrath. But when God deals with us on God's terms, it's called grace, and it's a payment of good for evil.

And it's the effect of grace here that counts. The effect of grace is that God basically "kills us with kindness." God breaks the cycle of evil for more evil for more evil. In Christ, by dying for the ungodly, God's kindness I meant to "kill" the person in us who forever wants to repay evil for evil. And the Holy Spirit gives to those who are willing to receive it, a new heart; a heart that is ready, in its spiritual fullness, to let's its cup run over with good even toward those who, in our eyes, may not deserve it.

Let me bring it down to earth a little. Most of our daily interactions with people can't be described as exchanges of good or evil. Most of our daily interactions are pretty bland, sometimes annoying, sometimes small disagreements at home, a poor choice of words, a little jealousy, a little too sensitive an ego, a lack of a sense of humour, impatience, laziness, distraction. It's often these undramatic, low-stakes interactions with each other where we forget that radical kindness is required there too. Most of our moral actions aren't feats of spiritual strength; just small maintenance; it's just good practice. I love a line from one of my favourite superhero movies: Hellboy II. Hellboy sits on his couch with crushed beer cans and crumpled candy wrappers all around him, and he says about his frustrated wife: "I would give my life for her; but she also wants me to do the dishes." Radical kindness is often undramatic and bland and unsung. But it's the goodness deep down in the fibers of life that keeps our social fabric from ripping.

Our job as followers of Christ is first to find the spiritual wholeness he offers, and then to offer ourselves like he does, to pour out of our over-flowing cup, to spread real, practical acts of love: food given, time given, talent given, money given, friendship given, forgiveness given, prayers given, attention given, acts of service given.

If your cup overflows with God's blessing in your life; pour it out for others, just as Christ, full of grace and truth, poured out his life to take away the sins of the world.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Silence for reflection

The Apostles' Creed

Celebrant: Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

People: **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: In peace let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy." For peace from on high and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: During this worldwide week of prayer for Christian unity, we pray, Loving Lord, accept the prayers of all your faithful children throughout the world, who call out to you with one mind, one voice, and one heart. Through your beloved disciple John, you promised that if we walk in your light, then we will have communion with one another, and your precious blood will cleanse us of all sin. Bring us that blessed communion, O Saviour! Let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: Gracious God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified, send your guidance upon us as we prepare to elect a bishop for our diocese. Grant wisdom to those discerning a call, to those who are candidates, to Members of Synod, and to our diocesan administrator, Bishop Michael Bird; let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: We pray for Archbishop Shane Parker, Primate of Canada; Archbishop Anne Germond, Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, as well as our Diocesan Partners: Kairos Ottawa and Saint Paul University. We pray for The Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples, Archbishop Christopher Harper, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop, Sacred Circle Events, and the ministry of reconciliation. Let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For King Charles, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For our village of Metcalfe, for every city and community, and for those who live in them in faith, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For those who travel by land, water, or air, for the sick and the suffering especially Lorena, Julie, Lisa, Willy, Marjorie, Kelly, Louise, Zabrina, Zachariah, Randy, Deb, Richard, Howard,

Beth, Jeanette and Cheryl, for prisoners and captives, and for their safety, health, and salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For all who have died especially Irene James, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications to you, and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together you will hear their requests. Fulfil now our desires and petitions, as may be best for us, granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come eternal life; for you, Father, are good and loving, and we glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, in the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

All: **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
he welcomes sinners
and invites them to his table.
Let us confess our sins,
confident in God's forgiveness.

Most merciful God,

All: **we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: **And also with you.**

Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant: Living God,
you have revealed your Son as the Messiah.
May we hear his word and follow it,
and live as children of light.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

All: **Amen**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Celebrant: We give you thanks and praise, almighty God,
for the gift of a world full of wonder,
and for our life which comes from you.

By your power you sustain the universe.

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

Celebrant: You created us to love you with all our heart,
and to love each other as ourselves,
but we rebel against you by the evil that we do.

In Jesus, your Son,
you bring healing to our world
and gather us into one great family.

Therefore, with all who serve you

on earth and in heaven,
we praise your wonderful name, as we say,
All: 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.

Celebrant: We give you thanks and praise, loving Father,
because in sending Jesus, your Son, to us
you showed us how much you love us.
He cares for the poor and the hungry.
He suffers with the sick and the rejected.
Betrayed and forsaken, he did not strike back
but overcame hatred with love.
On the cross
he defeated the power of sin and death.
By raising him from the dead
you show us the power of your love
to bring new life to all your people.
All: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant: On the night before he gave up his life for us,
Jesus, at supper with his friends,
took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to them,
saying, “Take this, all of you, and eat it:
this is my body which is given for you.”

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine,
said the blessing, gave it to his friends,
and said, “Drink this, all of you:
this is the cup of my blood,
the blood of the new and eternal covenant,
which is shed for you and for many,
so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in memory of me.”
All: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant: Gracious God,
with this bread and wine
we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus,
and we offer ourselves to you in him.

Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts,
that we may know the presence of Jesus
in the breaking of bread,
and share in the life
of the family of your children.

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

Celebrant: Father, you call us to be your servants;
fill us with the courage and love of Jesus,
that all the world may gather in joy
at the table of your kingdom.

We sing your praise, almighty Father,
through Jesus, our Lord,
in the power of the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.

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

Celebrant: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.**

Celebrant: We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

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

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer After Communion

Celebrant: God of glory,
you nourish us with bread from heaven.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit,
that through us your light may shine in all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.

All: **Amen**

Celebrant: Glory to God,
All: **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.**

Celebrant: This Epiphany, may the God of infinite goodness
scatter the darkness of sin and brighten your hearts with holiness;
and the blessing of God all-present and all-knowing, our Creator,
our Redeemer, and our Sanctifier, be among you and remain with
you always.

All: **Amen**

Celebrant: Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the
Spirit.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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