

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH – JANUARY 15, 2023

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

READINGS: ISAIAH 49:1-7; PSALM 40:1-12; 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9; JOHN 1:29-42

Organ: Be Thou My Vision - Bob Chilcott

Hymn 7: Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies, Christ the True, the Only Light

THE WORD OF GOD

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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.**

Solo: Glory to God in the Highest
text, the Prayer Book, p. 356

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.** Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son our Savior 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, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; who lives and reigns with and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

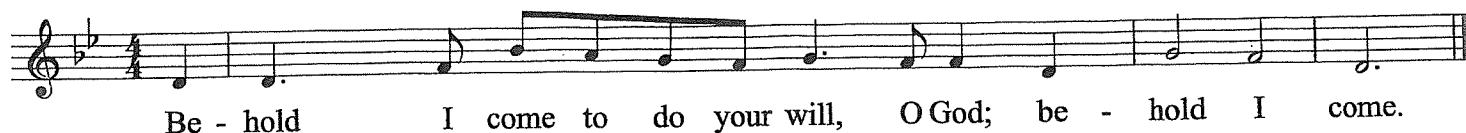
A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

In our Hebrew scripture lesson, the servant of the Lord reflects movingly on his mission – its sorrows and frustrations – and God's high calling and promise to be with him.

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. He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified. But I said, "I have labored 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." 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; now 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. 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. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 40 is a prayer for deliverance and a song of thanksgiving to God who has saved the Lord's servant. The cantor sings the refrain; all repeat, and sing as indicated.



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I waited patiently upon the Lord; he stooped to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and clay; he set my feet upon a high cliff and made my footing sure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the Lord. Happy are they who trust in the Lord! they do not resort to evil spirits or turn to false gods. **R.**

Great things are they that you have done, O Lord my God! How great your wonders and your plans for us! There is none who can be compared with you. Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than I can count. In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure (you have given me ears to hear you); Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required, and so I said, "Behold, I come". **R.**

In the roll of the book it is written concerning me: 'I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep in my heart.'" I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation; behold, I did not restrain my lips; and that, O Lord, you know. **R.**

Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the great congregation. **R.**

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

In this lesson, Paul greets the members of the new Christian community in Corinth and offers thanksgiving for their growth in Christ.

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. Thanks be to God.

All stand. The alleluia is sung once by the choir, then sung by everyone.



The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to John. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After John the Baptist told his followers about Jesus, the very next day John saw him approaching and said, "There is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. This is he of whom I said, 'After me there comes a man who ranks ahead of me; before I was born, he already was.' I did not know who he was; but the reason why I came, baptizing in water, was that he might be revealed to Israel." John then recounted what happened when Jesus was baptized. "At his baptism, I saw the Spirit come down from heaven like a dove and rest on him. I did not know who he was. God had told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one you are to baptize with water and the Holy Spirit.' I have seen that happen and have borne witness: this is God's Chosen One."

On the following day, John was standing with two of his disciples when Jesus passed by. John looked at him and said again, "There is the Lamb of God!" When the two heard what he said, they followed Jesus. "What are you looking for?", Jesus said. They replied, "Rabbi, (which means 'Teacher'), where are you staying?" "Come and see", said Jesus. So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent the rest of the day with him, until four in the afternoon. One of the two who followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and say to him, "We have found the Messiah!" (which is Hebrew for 'the Christ'). Andrew brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John; now you will be called Cephas or Peter, which means 'the Rock'".

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael L. Bradley, Rector

What do we believe?

We believe in God:

Whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives, whose love was made human in Jesus of Nazareth, whose love was crucified by the evil that can entrap us.

Therefore, though we sometimes are fearful and doubting, we trust in God, and in the Name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves:

To the service of others, to seek justice, and to live in peace,

To care for the earth, to share the commonwealth of God's goodness,

To live in the freedom of forgiveness, the power of the spirit of Love,

And in the company of the faithful, to be the Church. For the glory of God. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Prayer will be offered for our church, our nation, our world; for all in need or want, and for those who have died.

The people will be asked to add their own petitions and thanksgivings.

We pray also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence is kept, then all pray together:*

Have mercy upon us; **Most merciful God; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The celebrant concludes with a collect, to which all respond: Amen.

Holy God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Hear all our prayers which we offer this day and forgive all our sins. Bring healing to all wounds, make whole all that is broken, speak truth to all illusion, and shed light in every darkness, that all creation will see your glory and know your Christ. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Solo - In This Very Room - Ron & Carol Harris

In this very room, there's quite enough love for all of us. And in this very room, there's quite enough joy for all of us, and there's quite enough hope, and quite enough power, to chase away any gloom. For Jesus, Lord Jesus, is in this very room. In this very room, there's quite enough love for all the world. And in this very room, etc. For Jesus, Lord Jesus, is in this very room.

Hymn 550, Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult of Our Life's Wild, Restless Sea

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is truly right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. For in Christ you have revealed your eternal plan of salvation and showed him as the light of all peoples. Now that his glory has shone among us, you have renewed our very humanity in his immortal image. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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.

The celebrant continues with the Prayer of Consecration, Memorial Acclamation, and Great Amen.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Music During Communion: Hymn 490, I Want To Walk as a Child of the Light

**Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

After all have received Communion, please stand and pray together:

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, guide and savior. **Amen.**

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, strengthen you and be with, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Let us go forth, to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn 496, How Bright Appears the Morning Star, With Mercy Beaming from Afar

Organ: Fugue in C Minor - Johann Christian Bach

Our Mission: We share the light of Christ by loving and serving our neighbors in the world.

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