



Epiphany 3

January 23, 2022 + 9:00 AM

Welcome to our worship of the living God on this Third Sunday after the Epiphany! Today we see God's glory revealed in the reading of Scripture. People stand at attention; people weep; people prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the Church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. So gather round; listen up; and glimpse the glory of God...

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

GATHERING HYMN: "Open Your Ears, O Faithful People"
ELW 519

You'll find the words and music for this hymn on the following page.

INVOCATION, CONFESSION, AND FORGIVENESS:

We gather today just as God has gathered us into His family in our Baptism:
in the Name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **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 Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth's not in us.
But if we confess our sins, God who's faithful and just
will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
So let's confess our sins against God and our neighbor:

*Silence is kept for reflection and personal confession.
Then our prayer continues on page 3.*

Open Your Ears, O Faithful People



1 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo-ple, o - pen your ears and hear God's word.
2 They who have ears to hear the mes-sage, they who have ears, now let them hear;



O - pen your hearts, O roy - al priest-hood, God has come to you.
they who would learn the way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.

Refrain



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, English version

Music: YISRAEL V'ORAITA, Hasidic tune

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After singing this hymn, go back to page 1 for our Invocation, Confession, and Forgiveness.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we're in bondage to sin and can't free ourselves.

We've sinned against You in thought, word, and deed,

by what we've done and by what we've left undone.

We haven't loved You with our whole heart;

we haven't loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will

and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy Name. Amen.

Hear the Good News, my brothers and sisters:

Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His only Son to die for us,

and for His sake forgives us all our sins.

So as a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by His authority,

I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,

in the Name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

HYMN OF PRAISE:

"Glory to God!"



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



① Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al-might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

>



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



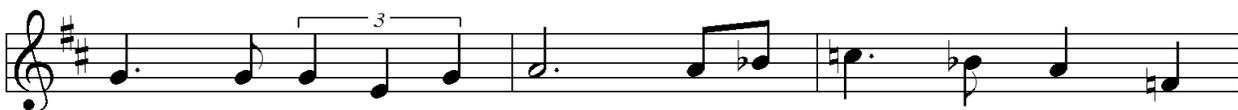
glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



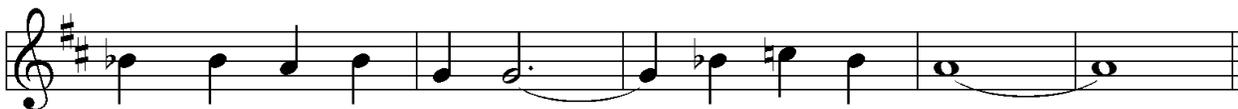
☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,



and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

APOSTOLIC GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit are with you all.

And also with you.

Then let's pray: Blessed Lord God,
You've caused the Holy Scriptures to be written for the nourishment of Your people.
Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them,
that, comforted by Your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast
to the hope of eternal life, Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD AND PRAYER

FIRST READING:

Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10

NRSV

After returning from exile and rebuilding the temple, all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the

women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law... ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground... ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God. Don't mourn or weep"— for all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing's prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord. And don't be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

This is holy wisdom; this is holy word.

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING:

1 Corinthians 12.12-31a

NRSV

St Paul writes: Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— Jews or Greeks, slaves or free— and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴Indeed, the body doesn't consist of one member, but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, "Because I'm not a hand, I don't belong to the body," that wouldn't make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, "Because I'm not an eye, I don't belong to the body," that wouldn't make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as He chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye can't say to the hand, "I have no need of you!" nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you!" ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members don't need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷Now you're the body of Christ, and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a}But strive for the greater gifts...

This is holy wisdom; this is holy word.

Thanks be to God!

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

Luke 4.14-21

NRSV

See ELW 174 for the tune.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel according to St Luke, the fourth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord!

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about Him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶When He came to Nazareth, where He'd been brought up, He went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was His custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to Him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He's anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He's sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰And He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. ²¹Then He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

HYMN OF THE DAY:

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

ELW 311 [to 521]

*Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, Your reign on earth begun!
You come to break oppression, to set the captive free,
To take away transgression and rule in equity.*

*You come with rescue speedy to those who suffer wrong,
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in Your sight.*

*You shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in Your path to birth.
Before You on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go;
And righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.*

*Kings shall fall down before You, and gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore You, Your praise all people sing.
To You shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
Your kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.*

APOSTLES’ CREED:

Let’s confess our faith together in the words of our baptismal creed:

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 into hell. 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.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND SHARING OF THE PEACE:

God's Spirit is poured out upon us lavishly.

So let's boldly pray for the Church, the world, and all God has made:

Gracious God, we give You thanks, for You've baptized us into one body in Christ, so that with all our gifts working as one, we might announce Your Good News of freedom and healing and proclaim Your Reign in all the earth. Fulfill Your word through the faithful witness of Your Church here and throughout the world; and send us out to bring Your liberating Good News to all people. God of grace, ***hear our prayer.***

Pour out Your Spirit upon this congregation. Bless the variety of ministries among us; and empower us to freely welcome and deeply value each person who enters into worship and ministry among us. God of grace, ***hear our prayer.***

Pour out Your Spirit upon the earth and upon all creatures of the land, air, and water. Heal environments damaged by disease or pollution, sustain species at risk of extinction, and make us wise stewards of all You've entrusted to our care. God of grace, ***hear our prayer.***

Pour out Your Spirit upon the nations of the world and their leaders; and where we're divided in our society, nation, or world, come quickly to reunite us into one body. Set us free from our captivity to hatred, fear, and the ways of violence. Liberate those who are unjustly imprisoned, especially those imprisoned for working for freedom. Bring safety to those who are threatened by violence, terror, and oppression, and healing to those who are traumatized in body or spirit; and give us all the vision and the courage to pursue the ways of peace. God of grace, ***hear our prayer.***

Grant Your provision and justice to people living with poverty, disability, pain, or oppression. Transform us and fill us with Your abundant life, that we may pour out our lives in service to the world; and bless those who work to provide food and shelter to those who desperately need them, that all may come to know the abundance of Your grace and be brought into the spaciousness of Your generosity. God of grace, ***hear our prayer.***

Have mercy on those who struggle with any kind of sickness, grief, loneliness, or chronic pain, that they may know the foretastes of Your resurrection victory in their own restoration to wholeness and renewal in strength and life, hope and joy. We especially commend to Your mercy... God of grace, ***hear our prayer.***

In thanksgiving, we lift before You the saints for whom the promise of salvation has now been fulfilled. Tend to those who mourn, especially... and bring us together in Your everlasting glory. God of grace, ***hear our prayer.***

For into Your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

The peace of the Lord is with you always.

And also with you.

Reconciled to God and one another, let's share with one another a sign of God's peace.

THANKSGIVING

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY HYMN: "Glory to You, God!"

Sung to the tune of "Blessed Assurance," ELW 638

*Glory to You, God, for Yours is the earth; Yours the hosannas, the death and rebirth;
Ours the rejoicing for Word given frame; ours the thanksgiving to Your holy Name.
Glory to You, God, for all You have giv'n— blessings of earth and foretastes of heav'n;
Ours be the telling of deeds greatly done; Yours be the glory, O God, Yours alone!*

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD:

Blest are You, holy, mighty, and merciful Lord!

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory!

We give You thanks and praise, holy God, for by Your Word You made all things:

*You spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos,
and brought life into being.*

By Your Word, You called Your people Israel to share with the world Your wonderful gifts:

Freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile.

Mindful of Your covenant, You spoke of old by the prophets:

*Words of warning and of woe, words to challenge and console,
words of wisdom for our life with You.*

Now You call to us through Christ Jesus, Your Word made flesh among us:

*The Light for those who dwell in darkness,
the Life of those entombed by death, the Way of Your self-giving love.*

For Your Word of life, and for all Your gifts of grace,

We give You thanks and praise, O Lord, and to Your saving deeds we testify!

Now send us Your Spirit of truth, O God, and rekindle Your gifts within us:

*Renew our faith, increase our hope,
and deepen our love for the sake of a world in need.*

True to Your Word, O God, draw near to those who call on You:

*Lift up the weak and lowly; bring justice to those who are oppressed;
and guide us in the ways of peace,*

For You alone are God,

to You alone we sing our praise!

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus Himself has taught us:

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, and the power, and the glory forever and ever! Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION:

And now may God our Creator delight your heart and sharpen your vision;
may + Christ Jesus keep you in God's grace;
may the Holy Spirit be the fountain that sustains you and binds you together as one;
and almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN:

“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”

ELW 551



The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
 joy like seed and, all our days, to
 to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
 share a dream and help the blind to see.
 cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
 pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL:

God has a plan.

We're it!

What's our part in God's plan?

Sharing God's love in joyful service!

Then let's go in peace, live in joy, and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Acknowledgements

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On any given Sunday, it happens: People gather together in strange-looking buildings and take their seats; throughout the next hour, they speak and sing, hear stories being read from a book, listen to teachings, give their offerings, speak and stand silently in prayer, perhaps share a bit of bread and a sip of wine. There's seldom any laser-light show to capture one's attention, nor sounds to rivet the soul, nor spectacle to give one a "rush" of adrenaline— though many people think such things are necessary. And coming from our entertainment-addicted world of game systems and I-Pods, our children can be found to voice a unison cry: "**BORING!**"

It seems so irrelevant to our modern adrenaline frenzy, this activity we call worship... Yet on any given Sunday, what God chooses to do among us in these seemingly boring means of grace is nothing less than the stuff of **REVOLUTION!** It's kind of like a live hand grenade tossed into the midst of a patrician tea party: maybe it doesn't quite have the same BANG to it, but somehow, some way, it's going to radically upset the status quo...

So it was when Jesus came into His hometown synagogue that day. Sure, there was a lot of popular "buzz" circulating around Jesus by this time— but the people of Nazareth knew better than to buy into it. They all remembered Jesus from when He was knee-high to a grasshopper, forever getting into Joseph's construction equipment and asking precocious questions— just like any other boy! Now He was taking His place as a young man in the synagogue: taking the scroll, reading the Scripture, making His comments on the readings— nothing too terribly shocking. If anything, it was meant **not** to be shocking— the kind of safe religion that kept you on the right side of whoever happened to be ruling at the time. And sure enough, Jesus chose to read from the book of the prophet Isaiah— in fact, from the writings of an anonymous disciple of Isaiah's prophetic school: "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He's anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He's sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*"

"Good job," the synagogue elder whispered. "He's a pretty good reader for a builder," another observed— and that's where they were all sure it would stay: a good performance from an ordinary young man in a nice, civil house of worship...

But Jesus wasn't there to entertain them. Jesus wasn't there to tickle their fancy, warm their hearts with sweet sentiment, or establish Himself among Nazareth's "powers that be". No, Jesus meant business— and so His first comment on the text was, "Today this Scripture's been fulfilled in your hearing."

“Today this Scripture’s been fulfilled in your hearing”— or, as some of our southern neighbors would put it, **“VIVA LA REVOLUCIÓN!”** For what Jesus was doing— indeed, what Jesus does among us each and every week in these simple, quiet, discreet means of word and water, bread and wine— was declaring war on “the way things have always been”! Jesus was declaring that God’s here to wage all-out war on the status quo, to set His people free from everything that would beat them down, break their spirits, name them nothing and insignificant and powerless to change, and blind them to God’s working in their midst! And maybe most dangerously of all, Jesus was telling them that this God was here to do all this ***in the flesh— in Him!***

And so it is even today... Oh sure, it may not seem like the stuff of revolution, this gathering around God’s Word and Sacraments. There are no bombs going off, no tanks in the streets, no wild screaming of protest marchers. But here, in this place, the sins that separate us from God and from one another are forgiven and set aside; the differences that would keep us apart are instead embraced as gifts of God for the strengthening of the whole Body of Christ; the “basic principles of the world” that would reduce our worth to how much we can produce, how much money we make, how many toys we have in our private little playgrounds, are shown by birds and fields and simple stories for the folly that they are. Here, in all these simple means, God brings healing and renewal and strength to those whose lives are broken.

And here, in all these simple means, God equips us, His children, to ***take His revolution to the streets***— to all the places where we live and learn and play and work! For all these words we speak, all these hymns we sing, all these prayers we lift to God on high, aren’t simply meant to fill the air with sweet and spiritual perfume, but to be ***fulfilled***— to be made real flesh and blood in the real world in you and in me! The Spirit of the Lord is upon ***us*** from our Baptism into Christ, to make ***our*** hands Christ’s hands of healing, to make ***our*** words Christ’s words of encouragement and hope, to make ***our*** ears the ears that truly hear the yearnings of another’s heart, to make ***our*** lives a blessing to everyone we encounter. And by the power of God’s Spirit alive in us, God’s revolution will overcome “the way things have always been.” By the power of God’s Spirit alive in us, bonds of fear will be broken, dulled and blinded eyes will be opened to see the world in a new light, and the greatest freedom, born of God’s grace, will come to those in every kind of bondage— even the most comfortable kinds! And one day, by the power of God’s Spirit alive in us, the whole universe will echo as one, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in our hearing— through Jesus Christ our Lord!” AMEN.



A Prophet's Blessing

This blessing
finds its way
behind the bars.

This blessing
works its way
beneath the chains.

This blessing
knows its way
through a broken heart.

This blessing
makes a way
where there is none.

Where there's no light,
this blessing.

Where there's no hope,
this blessing.

Where there's no peace,
this blessing.

Where there's nothing left,
this blessing.

In the presence
of hate.

In the absence
of love.

In the torment
of pain.

In the grip
of fear.

To the one
in need.

To the one
in the cell.

To the one
in the dark.

To the one
in despair.

Let this blessing come
as bread.

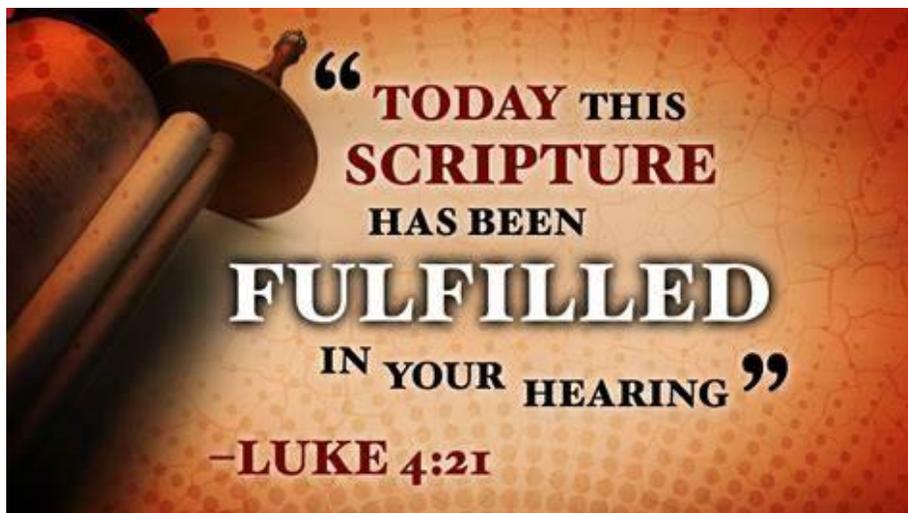
Let this blessing come
as release.

Let this blessing come
as sight.

Let this blessing come
as freedom.

Let this blessing come.

✦ *Jan Richardson*



This Week at St Paul's

P = Parish House, F = Fellowship Hall

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Sun. 1/23 Epiphany 3	9:00 AM	Service of Word, Prayer, and Thanksgiving in person and online: www.facebook.com/StPaulsQtown/live
	10:30 AM	Fellowship Hour via Zoom: [use meeting ID 839 381 0896, passcode 90e8Dm]
	6:00 PM	Confirmation Class via Zoom *
Tues. 1/25		Bucks County Point-in-Time Count of the Homeless
Thur. 1/27	10:00 AM	Bible Study via Zoom/FCC *
	7:00 PM	Scouts BSA 007 [F]
Fri. 1/28	1:00 PM	Al-Anon [F]
	7:00 PM	A.A. [F]
Sun. 1/30 Epiphany 4	9:00 AM	Holy Communion in person and online: www.facebook.com/StPaulsQtown/live
	10:30 AM	Annual Congregational Meeting in person and via Zoom: [use meeting ID 839 381 0896, passcode 90e8Dm]
	6:00 PM	Confirmation Class via Zoom *

- * If you'd like to participate in these **activities taking place over Pr Dave's Zoom platform**, go to zoom.us, click "Join a Meeting" at the top right of the page, use meeting ID 3700147169, and if it asks for a password, use 119805 and you should be in. If you're using your phone, these dial-in numbers will work: 929.205.6099 or 312.626.6799. After you dial, you'll be asked for the host's code, and you'll type in 3700147169#, then 119805# and you're in. (What's more, with your smart phone or computer, you can engage video as well as audio, so we can see and hear you—something that's precious right now!) You can also use **Free Conference Call [FCC]**: Dial 857.232.0157, enter conference code 144261, and you're in.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK:

- The Armed Forces, Crossroads Pregnancy Care, David & Mary Johnson Sr., Andrew Edmonds, Morgan, Ally, Dontay, & Emily Hassler, President Biden and his cabinet, Don & Karen Ludovici, Derek & Matt Ludovici, Barbara Graser, Bob Knapp, Ray Constable, Walter Rausch, Bob Westervelt, Carol Marks, Rosemary Bruno, Nick Wildman, Walt & Ryan, Bobby Lane, Alan & Kathy West, Connie Slotter, Doug Fay, Karen Berger, Jim, Jan Riley, Sam Sovacol, Jeannie Rothsching, Beth, Norm Diehl Sr., Roger & Tanner Banks, Amy Miller, Erika, Linda Knowlton, Owen & Siobhan, Aly Brown, Matt Aber, Ray, Kelly, Ozzi and his parents, Russell Stier, Nancy Schnabel, Mike Ruth, Rina Ricca, the Peterson family, Steve and Dan Jacobs, the Hebbel family, Karen Capella, Sherry Kratz, Laura Nelson, Sam Smith, Karin Silvius, Karen Kaminski, Pamela Allen, Mary Lisa Kelly, Tammy Zepiora, Ed McCartan, Mark Bilger, Melissa Manhart, Ruth Ziedonis, Corinne Mininger, Cheri, Natalie, Florence Zellers, Chrissy Cousins, Bob Shimalla, Doris Diehl, Melody, Dawn Vurlicer, Robin Greene, Alan Shugart, Robert & Cheryl Ball, Robert Cook, Kamryn Jenkins, Charyl Westervelt, Barry Hall, Aaron Hamlin, Gary Hertzog, Jack Schnabel, Chris Bauer, Carol Marks, Kristin + Brady King, Katie, Kelsey Shaak; the people of Haiti and Afghanistan; victims of natural disasters; everyone struggling with COVID-19 and its containment.

- Families and friends of Robert Webb, Bill Blain, Dexter Latchmi-Persad, Gary Kratz, Bea Becknell, Tom Kennedy, Todd Wert, Robert West, Bruce Vurlicer, Joanne Reinhart, Jordan Scholl, Phyllis Boyer, Lisa Kearns, Fay Barndt, Kenneth Horn, Joseph Ricca, Christopher Young, Eric King, Liam King, Patrick King, Mary Ziegenfuss.

Serving in Worship Today:

Usher:	Gordon Bryan	Altar Guild	Sascha Baringer, Jean Noblit,
Acolyte:	Aaron Shimalla		Stefanie Bauman
Communion:	-----	Bulletin	Phillip and Doris Diehl
Counter	Patty Schumacher	Reader	<i>Volunteer needed</i>

Today's bulletins are given to the glory of God by Rhonda Diehl in honor of Aaron's 11th birthday on January 26.

Especially now that COVID-Omicron is surging in our region, we strongly encourage you to keep observing the **COVID safety protocols** of safe distancing, face masking, and limited physical contact as we worship together. This includes:

- Everyone wears a face mask at all times during worship services and other indoor gatherings at St Paul's at least until the end of February.** (We have disposable facemasks available in both vestibules if you need one.) The obvious exception is when we're eating the bread or drinking the wine in Holy Communion.
- Until the end of February at least, **we'll share Holy Communion at our seats rather than coming forward to the altar, and we'll use the pre-packaged wafer-and-grape juice Communion sets** instead of our current wafers and wine from the chalice. We'll make these pre-packaged Communion sets available in the narthex and the "breezeway", along with baskets in which to dispose of "empties" after the service is over.
- We'll keep livestreaming our worship services**— so if you're not feeling in perfect health on a given Sunday, we encourage you to stay home and join us for worship via our livestream. And **in addition to our Facebook livestream, we're streaming the audio of our services via our Free Conference Call line** (857.232.0157, conference code 144261); so even if you don't work with a computer or access the internet via a smartphone, you'll be able to join us for worship.
- We're also asking our ministry teams/committees to **meet exclusively online until at least March 1**— again, in an effort to inhibit the spread of this Omicron variant. At least two of us at St Paul's have Zoom Pro accounts available for such meetings, so we can make arrangements for these meetings for the next two months...

Come join us this Thursday, **Jan. 27** from **10:00 AM-12:00 NN** via Zoom or Free Conference call for our **Thursday Morning Bible Study**. (See the previous page for information on accessing these platforms.) We're digging into the Scripture readings for the upcoming week to discover the treasures that await us come Sunday. You don't have to be a biblical "expert" to get a lot out of this study— so come join us and invite your friends as well!

Our **Monthly Special for January** is **Advocates for the Homeless of Upper Bucks [AHUB]**, which provides our homeless neighbors a warm and safe shelter, a hot meal, and basic supplies in times of extreme cold ($\leq 26^{\circ}$) through the Upper Bucks Code Blue Shelter in Quakertown. Outreach Care is also under AHUB's ministry "umbrella", working year-round with our homeless neighbors. If you'd like to contribute to our Monthly Special, simply send a check to the church with "Monthly Special" or "AHUB" listed in the memo line.

And by the way, the coldest months of the year are just around the corner. Our Social Ministry Team will be collecting **gift cards** for places like Wawa and **snacks** to donate to Upper Bucks Code Blue. (Pr Dave: "Wawa gift cards are especially coveted— they're useful for food and gas, and you can't buy alcoholic beverages with them.") We'll have a bin available in the narthex through January for your gifts.

Our **2022 Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held next Sunday, **January 30 @ 10:30 AM** in person and via Zoom (using meeting ID 839 381 0896 and passcode 90e8Dm.). All voting members and friends of St Paul's are encouraged to attend. We'll be reviewing our life together from this past year, considering some upcoming ministry priorities, and electing several new and returning Council members. Copies of the 2021 Annual Report have been emailed or "snail-mailed" to you for your review. Mark your calendars and come join us!

Conference and Synod Assembly Delegates: This year's Upper Bucks Conference Assembly will be held on March 6 (2:00 PM), and our Southeast Penn Synod Assembly will be held April 30 (9:00 AM-4:00 PM), both being held via Zoom. If you're interested in serving as a delegate to these assemblies, please let us know either via one of our Council members or at next week's meeting. Thanks!

Greetings from **Scouts BSA Troop 007!** We're so thankful for St Paul's welcome and support. But right now, there's one more thing we really need to continue to survive and hopefully, thrive: **We need more Scouts!** The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. If you know a parent or grandparent of kids from kindergarten to high school, encourage them to visit one of our Scout meetings on Thursday nights. "A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent" (the Scout Law). Check us out at [Scouts007.org!](http://Scouts007.org)

For the latest announcement updates, go to:

docs.google.com/document/d/1aZi_lL0SHaQ1BOGFS_s3bt0oHoTQ4fCy9t0372PZioE/edit#

For more information on our ministries, please contact:

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