

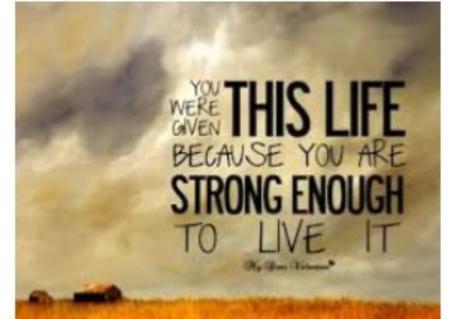


Fourth Sunday After the  
Epiphany - B  
January 31, 2021

### Key Scripture - Mark 1: 22

They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Theme - Confidence



## Welcome and Announcements

† Newcomers please sign our guestbook



† Special requests may be made through Facebook

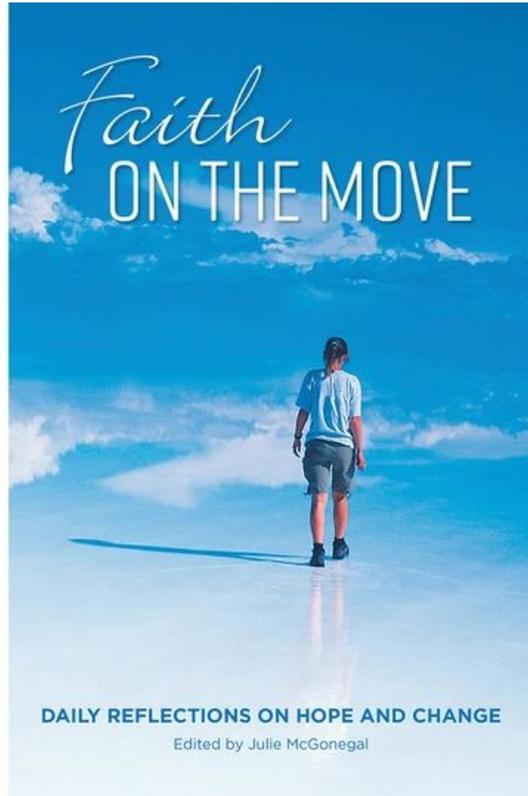


[Contact Us](#)

† Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.

- Trinity is an Affirming Congregation
- Our church building is closed during the Stay at Home Order except in the case of urgent requirement.
  - Pick up or delivery of packages or correspondence may be made at the Choir Door, corner of Market and Russell Streets on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9:00 to 11:00 am. Please knock and somebody will be able to assist you.
  - Deliveries may be made at other times by special appointment.
  - Brown Bags and Blessings will continue as an Essential Service.
  - Church business will be conducted remotely
  - Worship will be recorded and posted to FaceBook

- Those folk who subscribe to the Broadview Magazine through the church should let Brenda King know their intentions with respect to renewal.
- The Spiritual Leadership Team is sponsoring a Lenten Devotional Discussion based on the book -
  - Faith on the Move: Daily Reflections on Hope and Change



- If you would like read the book at home or participate in the remote discussion, please leave a message at the Office - 613 283-4444



We are grateful for the Town of Smiths Falls and Lanark County. Take Away Meals are subsidized through the generosity of the Community Grant Program and through the kindness of individual benefactors.

Two Guys for Lunch are partners with us.

## **Acknowledging Traditional Territory**

Smiths Falls is located on the traditional territory of the Algonquin peoples dating back countless generations. We are grateful for our neighbours and recognize the opportunity to exercise the Ministry of Reconciliation

**Introit** 701 "What Does The Lord Require of You?"

What does the Lord require of you?  
What does the Lord require of you?

Justice, kindness,  
walk humbly with your God.

To seek justice, and love kindness,  
And walk humbly with your God.

## **Call to Worship**

God's praise endures forever  
and eternity meets us in fleeting moments.

God's praise endures forever,  
and glory bursts into ordinary activities.

God's praise endures forever,  
and faith is steadfast even in the midst of change and challenge.

## **Opening Prayer**

Loving God, you are the wisdom behind mystery,  
the glory hidden in all that makes us wonder,  
the strength in all that nourishes.

When our eyes are open and our spirits alert,  
we experience your glory around us.

Scattered throughout the earth,  
smouldering deep inside us,  
radiating in acts of love,  
sparks of your glory reside.

Deep is our joy each time we encounter you.

So we gather in worship to express our reverence and praise.  
Together we celebrate the good we have experienced,  
knowing it comes from your hand.

**Hymn** MV 63 "Long Before My Journey's Start"

Long before my journey's start,  
When in my youth I searched in my heart,  
I would pray for her, wait for her,  
Wisdom, my road, my goal, and my star.

From the blossom to the seed,  
Long has she filled my cup in need,  
May I cling to her vine, taste of her wine,  
Wisdom, my life, my perfect design.

When I stretched my hands to the sky,  
When in despair my soul raised a cry,  
I was saved by her gaze, led in her ways,  
Wisdom, my love, the light of my days.

**Learning with Children**

Every Adult you know has been a child.

**Children's Prayer**

## **Prayer of Reconciliation**

Divine Healer,

We sometimes yearn for miracle and magic  
to remove pain, illness, and suffering.

Open our eyes to recognize the teachings and tools  
you have given us with which to seek healing  
in the midst of our afflictions and diseases.

You whisper to us that wholeness requires self-care and rest;  
You nudge us toward caregivers who can support and advise us;  
You breathe into us energy to move and stretch and reach  
toward health;

Renew our spirits in the midst of afflicting spirits.

Transform us for the health of your creation. Amen.

## **Assurance of Blessing**

In the midst of struggle, and affliction,  
know that you are made in God's image  
and God sees you as whole and good.

So may you celebrate God in your midst  
through opportunities of wholeness and justice.

**Scripture** Deuteronomy 18:15-20;  
Psalm 111 (VU 883);  
1 Corinthians 8;  
Mark 1:21-28

## **Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up

for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

Psalm 111 (VU 833)

*Refrain -*

***Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.***

I will thank you, God, with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in their assembly.

**Great are your works, O God,  
studied by all who delight in them.**

Honour and majesty are your work;  
your righteousness endures forever.

**You have won renown for your wonders;  
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

*Refrain -*

***Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.***

You give food to those who fear you;  
you keep your covenant always in mind.

**You have shown your power in action,  
giving your people the heritage of nations.**

The works of your hands are faithful and just;  
all your precepts are trustworthy.

**They stand fast forever and ever;  
grounded in justice and truth.**

You sent redemption to your people;  
**you decreed your covenant forever.**  
**Holy and awesome is your name.**

*Refrain -*

*Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.*

The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom;  
**those who practice it have good understanding.**  
**May your praise endure forever. Amen.**

## 1 Corinthians 8

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords - yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience

is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Mark 1:21-28

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were *astounded* at his teaching, *for he taught them as one having authority*, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. *They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority!* He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

*God bless our understanding of this reading.*

**Meditation**    "La Nativite" (Young)

**Reflection**    Confidence and Credibility

There is a knowing of Thought or Word -  
We should care for the Stranger.

There is the knowing of Action -  
We welcome the Stranger.

There is a knowing of Experience -  
We are or we were a Strangers too.

We know the way because we are on the path.

Jesus had the authority of authenticity. Jesus' words were accompanied by action and Jesus spoke from here he lived.

**Hymn** 620 "Silence, Frenzied, Unclean Spirit" (tune 442)

“Silence, frenzied, unclean spirit!”  
cried God’s healing Holy One.  
“Cease your ranting!  
Flesh can’t bear it, flee as night before the sun.”  
At Christ’s words the demon trembled,  
from its victim madly rushed,  
while the crowd that was assembled  
stood in wonder, stunned and hushed.

Lord, the demons still are thriving  
in the gray cells of the mind:  
tyrant voices, shrill and driving,  
twisted thoughts that grip and bind,  
doubts that stir the heart to panic,  
fears distorting reason’s sight,  
guilt that makes our loving frantic,  
dreams that cloud the soul with fright.

Silence, Lord, the unclean spirit  
in our mind and in our heart;  
speak your word that when we hear it,  
all our demons shall depart.  
Clear our thoughts and calm our feeling;  
still the fractured, warring soul.  
By the power of your healing  
make us faithful, true and whole.

**We Respond to God's Word  
Offering Ourselves  
For The Work And Witness Of The Church**

**Invitation to the Offering**

Jesus' ministry was often filled with challenge and choice. We face challenge and choice as we follow him in a new day and age. The invitation to give an offering week by week is a challenge. The gifts we choose to offer continue his ministry of healing and hope. Take the challenge and give as God has blessed you.

**Offering Prayer**

We bring our gifts to you, asking that you bless them so that they may accomplish more than we can ask or imagine. May our lives speak of our choice to follow you, and our ministries offer the healing and hope you have offered us. **Amen.**

**Hymn** 507 "Today We Are Called To Be Disciples" (tune 518)

Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,  
to help to set the captive free, make ploughshare out of sword,  
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,  
to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race  
to live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace.  
But we are vain and sadly proud, we sow not peace but strife,  
our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,  
with righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.  
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,  
a world that was created for a harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God act out the living Word,  
and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and  
heard.

As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord  
to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.

### **Prayers of the People**

Holy God, Lord of heaven and earth,  
in you we live and move and have our being.  
Your energy fills the cosmos and enlivens every cell of our bodies.  
You are around us, within us and beyond us.

Thank you for the simple pleasures of each day,  
and for the strength to meet the challenges that arise.  
When it feels like we have come to the end of our own resources,  
replenish us with the energy of your Spirit  
so that we know you are there for us and with us.

In these strange times of isolation and distancing,  
we are grateful for prayer in its many forms,  
for the intimate ways we can find communion with you:  
in word and in silence, in music and movement,  
in the Spirit's breath within us.

Draw close to us when we are feeling frustration or fear in the days ahead,  
and renew our spirits to continue serving you as best we can.

Hear us now as we pray for the earth,  
this precious and fragile home to all living things:

For declining species of plant and animal life

For the earth's climate

For the oceans and the rainforests.

Teach us how to be more faithful stewards of your earth  
and live more respectfully in your creation.

Hear us as we pray for the economy:  
For those whose decisions shape it

For employers and business owners

For workers and those who cannot find work

For those who have lost their jobs and those whose businesses  
are at risk

For all who seek economic justice, fairness and the common  
good,

And for those who struggle to discern what this means in a  
complex world.

Teach us how to care for our neighbours in these days of  
economic uncertainty.

We pray for our own circle of family and friends.  
Heal, bless, lead and encourage them.  
Grant to each one the particular gifts needed this day  
and lead them to a healthy, productive future.

We pray for neighbours and strangers in our community  
who face struggles and sorrows as the pandemic stretches on.

Remind us that we belong to each other and to you  
and help us respond to one another with compassion and  
kindness.

Finally, in silence, we bring to you the cares and hopes on our minds  
today.

Thank you for hearing the prayers of every heart.  
We join our prayers with all who follow Jesus

*Prayers conclude with:*

We experience God in a relationship from which we draw  
strength, courage and encouragement.

The ways of knowing God - as Creator, Redeemer, and  
Sustainer; Father, Mother, Friend; may be expressed in the prayer  
Jesus taught us -

**The Lord's Prayer**

**We Depart to Serve with Joy**

**Hymn** 707 "For The Faithful Who Have Answered" (tune 104)

For the faithful who have answered  
when they heard your call to serve,  
For the many ways you led them  
testing will and stretching nerve,  
For their work and for their witness  
as they strove against the odds,  
For their courage and obedience  
we give thanks and praise, O God.

Many eyes have glimpsed the promise,  
many hearts have yearned to see.  
Many ears have heard you  
calling us to greater liberty.  
Some have fallen in the struggle,  
others still are fighting on.  
You are not ashamed to own us.  
We give thanks and praise, O God.

For this cloud of faithful witness,  
for the common life we share,  
For the work of peace and justice,  
for the gospel that we bear,  
For the vision that our homeland  
is your love – deep, high, and broad –  
For the different roads we travel  
we give thanks and praise, O God.

## **Benediction**

And now in the wholeness and the goodness of God, go forth.

Go and laugh with your friends,

reconcile with those who have hurt you,

be kind to strangers, and feel the Divine smile upon us.

Now and forevermore. **Amen.**

## **Choral Amen**

**Postlude**      "While By My Sheep" (arr. Young)