



Third Sunday after the Epiphany - C
January 23, 2022

Key Scripture - Luke 4:18, 19

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me ..."



Theme - Because You Are Anointed

Welcome and Announcements

† Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.

– Trinity is an Affirming Congregation

† Services are pre-recorded during the week prior to the Sunday they represent, then posted to [Facebook](#). You will find a window to the Facebook Page on our [Website](#). You will also find a link to our [Bulletin Page](#). Services are rebroadcast on COGECO (Your TV) the following Sunday 10:00 am and 2:00 pm

† Our building will also be closed during this lockdown time. If you require access and do not have a key, please phone the Office in advance or from the front door. The office number is - 613 283 4444

† We continue to pray for those who were impacted by the legacy of Indian Residential Schools.

† A Lovely Musical Note from Wendy -

- Hi everyone: Now that you are again, sitting with your feet in front of the fire, a coffee in one hand, and the remote in the other, watching the Service on TV, I thought it would be a good time to ask you to do something.
- When we are recording, I take that opportunity to bring in a bunch of new hymns; ones that you have never heard before, in the hope that you will remember them when we are together again. That has not happened in the past.
- Perhaps you would prefer to pick some of your own favourite hymns and voluntary pieces that you would like to hear over the next few weeks. This is your chance to have your music heard. Please let me know if I can play something you would really like. You can contact me at - wendy.earl75@yahoo.com
- I am interested to see what you request. Please stay safe and stay well.

Looking Ahead

24 January, 1:00pm - Sensible Shoes: A Story about the Spiritual Journey. [Video call link](#)

26 January, 9:30am - Bible Study. We may meet [remotely](#)

Smiths Falls Community Food Bank appreciates donations, please fill our wagon at the back of the Sanctuary, it will be delivered monthly.

[Ottawa School of Theology & Spirituality](#) offers numerous courses that may be of interest as you seek ways to explore and deepen your faith and spiritual experience.

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

Interlude MV 85 "Take, O Take Me As I Am" (Iona)

Call to Worship

In mystery and grandeur,

we encounter the God of all creation.

In renewed justice and the promise of new life,

we know deep love of Christ.

In the wonderful diversity in every community,

the Spirit of God moves among us.

Let us worship the God of beauty, love, and wisdom.

We will praise God, ever Three and ever One, now and always.

Opening Prayer

Creator, Christ and Spirit;

You are the maker of a better world.

You are the creator of lasting peace.

We worship you for the gifts of peace and healing that

You bring into troubled lives.

You have shown us the way to work for justice,

to love friend and enemy alike,

to build a better world.

In this time of worship,
inspire us to believe our work in your name makes a difference.
So may we live to bring glory to you through our
commitment to you
and the communion we share with so many around world
as your faithful disciples.

Hymn 96 "Will You Come And See The Light" (Iona) vs. 1,4,5

Will you come and see the light from the stable door?
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.
It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are.
Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you join the hope, alight in a young girl's eyes,
of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?
When the lowest and the least are the foremost at the feast,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?
In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,
and the darkness all about is too dim to put it out:
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Time With Children

Children's Prayer

Prayer of Confession

God of grace and unity,

**We confess we can be divisive when you have called us to unity,
quarrelsome when you call us to seek peace, and**

critical rather than caring.

**We have grown used to our own ways
and cannot imagine you would ask us to change
even for the sake of the Gospel.**

**Forgive us when we mistake our familiar traditions for your
truth.**

**Show us how we can witness to your love
through working and worshipping together.**

Words of Assurance

God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting.

It shines into the world and scatters the darkness.

Know that you are forgiven and forgive one another.

Be at peace and walk in the newness of life, led by God's light.

Scripture Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10
 Psalm 19 (VU740)
 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a
 Luke 4:14-21

Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10

... 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. Accordingly, 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. He 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.

And 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. Then 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.

So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And 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; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

Psalm 19 (VU740)

Refrain -

The precepts of our God give joy to the heart.

The heavens declare the glory of God;
and the vault of the sky reveals God's handiwork.

One day speaks to another,
and night shares its knowledge with night,
and this without speech or language;
their voices are not heard.

But their sound goes out to all the lands,
their words to the ends of the earth.

Refrain -

The precepts of our God give joy to the heart.

In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun
which comes out like a bridegroom from under the canopy,
like an athlete eager to run the race.

**Its rising is at one end of the sky,
it runs its course to the other,
and there is nothing that is hidden from its heat.**

Refrain -

The precepts of our God give joy to the heart.

God's law is perfect, refreshing the soul;

**God's instruction is sure,
giving wisdom to the simple;**

God's precepts are right, rejoicing the heart;

**God's commandment is pure
giving light to the eyes;**

God's fear is clean, enduring forever;

**God's judgements are true,
every one of them righteous;
more desirable than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
pure honey from the comb.**

Refrain -

The precepts of our God give joy to the heart.

By them is your servant warned;

for in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can discern unwitting sins?

O cleanse me from my secret faults.

Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins,
lest they get the better of me.

Then shall I be clean and innocent of great offence.

Refrain -

The precepts of our God give joy to the heart.

**All Let the words of my mouth
and the thoughts of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O
God,
my strength and my redeemer.**

1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a

For 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. For 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.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the

feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and 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; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And 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. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Luke 4:14-21

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

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has 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.”

And 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. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Meditation "My Love Is Like A Red, Red Rose" (Burns)

Reflection Because You Are Anointed

During these months of COVID limitations and suspension of activities there has been much angst expressed about mental health and isolation. The focus of attention or concern seems to have been with interrupted social and interpersonal relationships, the loss of comfort that we find in contact with other human beings. It is generally accepted that having people about, entertaining friends, shopping and going to restaurants, working in groups or clusters of folk is better than being alone.

Limitations are painful. However, the weight of the Pandemic has been more than reduced social interactions. There are folk who are not minding the reduction in social activity or interpersonal encounters in and of themselves. Some people are quite content having fewer folk around but feel that something else has been eroded or compromised or diminished.

For many, the past two years have eaten away a sense of purpose and identity. No matter your social appetite, it is not only a connection to other people that is eroded but a sense of being. To be isolated not only affects the *quality of where we are* but our *sense of who and whose we are*. A thriving community not only provides a place of human contact, the warmth and comfort of social interaction, but purpose and identity. These days of social and community limitations may cause us to question *who*

we are. Our Scripture Lessons for today are timely, as they contain important reminders with respect to purpose and identity.

... All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate ... and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

The children of Israel paid careful attention because it was the Law that defined them as a nation. It was the Law that outlined who Israel was. If you forget the Law, you forget who you are. You do not know how to be or to act as God's people.

... All the people wept when they heard the words of the law.

Whether living free or under a foreign power, knowing who they were as God's anointed yielded tears of joy.

God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

If you do not know who you are, you do not know your purpose or place. It is impossible to know who others are in relation to you. You cannot feel like a fulfilled member of the community. Long days of isolation and reduced engagement chips away our sense of purpose and place.

The Gospel Lesson today represents the first time Jesus makes a public statement about who he is. Up to this point, Jesus has done and said very little. Jesus has not even called his first disciples yet.

So far in the Gospel of Luke, the author speaks of the circumstances of Jesus' birth, his upbringing. The proclamation of John the Baptist. The testing in the wilderness. Luke reviews Jesus' ancestry back to Adam. All this preamble before the beginning of his ministry. We know very little, indeed almost nothing, about where Jesus is, what he is doing, who his friends are.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to

read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has 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

And 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. Then he began to say to them,

"Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.

Jesus had not yet brought good news to the poor, he had not yet proclaimed release to the captives, he had not yet given sight to the blind, he had not yet set the oppressed free, he had not yet proclaimed the year of the Lord's favour. Yet he says -

"Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.

So far, all we know that Jesus actually did was to unroll a scroll, read it, roll it back up and declare, *"Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."*

So, what part of this Scripture that Jesus just read has actually been fulfilled?

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me"

Jesus knows exactly who he is. He was able to speak with authority, because he knew who he was. Jesus was able to amaze people with his teaching because he knew who he was. Jesus emerges with a name and reputation not because of his miracles but because of his confidence Jesus knew who and whose he was.

Luke tells us that the fulfillment of the Scripture is in the Spirit not simply in the activity. It is important to be. It is important to know who and whose you are regardless of circumstance. Jesus fulfilled the Scripture, as a state of being, not by doing. Up to this time, we do not know if Jesus has done much at all.

We are defined first not by what we do but by what we are. If an eye is an eye, it will see. If an eye knows it is an eye, it will choose to see.

Jesus could say *"Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."* because bringing good news to the poor, proclaiming release to the captives, giving sight to the blind, setting the oppressed free, proclaiming the year of the Lord's favour is what God's anointed does as surely as an eye sees and an ear hears.

You are a whole being called by God, anointed, filled with the Spirit. These two years of reduced activity, limited meetings, and physical distancing has changed much about our circumstance, our environment, our connections and our community. These two years of reduced activity have affected our moods and for many our well-being. These two years have altered what we can do. However, whether in the wilderness or in the synagogue, in the Temple or the waters of the Jordan, accepted or rejected; who we are remains - *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me"*.

Circumstances change, feelings change, who and whose we are, remains. In the days of Ezra, it was in the Law, given by God that Israel knew who they were. In Paul's letter to the Corinthians an eye is an eye. As God chooses. Jesus knows who he is because God has anointed him. We are who we are because God has anointed us. Nothing, *neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor [COVID, nor] anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

No matter where we are or how we are, we are God's Anointed; Always and Amen.

Hymn MV 89 "Love Is The Touch" (Iona)

Love is the touch of intangible joy;
Love is the force that no fear can destroy;
Love is the goodness we gladly applaud;
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the lit in a lingering voice;
Love is the hope that can make us rejoice;
Love is the cure for the frightened and flawed;
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;
Love is the will to be whole once again;
Love is the trust of a friend on the road;
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the Maker and Spirit and Son;
Love is the kingdom their will has begun;
Love is the path which the saints all have trod;
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Invitation to the Offering

The Apostle Paul reminds us that we are part of one body, each of us and all of us.

The gifts we offer in Jesus' name are all needed, each of them and all of them.

Together, the body of Christ accomplishes many things through the gifts we share.

Offering Options

2022 Donation envelopes are now available. Folks can phone the office and arrange for them to be delivered (Cynthia and I like a road trip). Offerings can be made several ways -

- E-transfers through the bank to secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca
- by mail OR by delivery to church office by prearranged time
- through Trinity website DONATE button
- PAR

Offering Prayer

Creator God, you made each of us in our uniqueness,
and together, all of us to bear your image in the world.

Accept our gifts, unique as they are, and bless them for the sake of
your Son, Jesus.

May they bear his grace and mercy into the world you love so your
purposes will be fulfilled.

Hymn 747 "The Lord Is My Shepherd" (Scottish Psalter)

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
he makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again;
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear none ill,
for thou art with me; and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me:
and in God's house forevermore
my dwelling place shall be.

Prayers of the People

God of life, God of love.

You created us and set us in relationship with each other:

In families and neighbourhoods,
in churches and communities,
in cultures and nations.

We give you thanks for the rich gifts of arts and culture,
of home life and community celebration
which bring meaning and encouragement to our lives.

Help us contribute our gifts

to the traditions and imagination that sustain the best of our
common life
from one generation to the next.

God of mercy and forgiveness,

You call us to live together in peace and unity.

In this Week of Prayer for Christian unity,
we pray that your Spirit will create understanding and
co-operation

among all who bear Christ's name.

Help us share our gifts with each other

so that churches within our community may flourish
and our common mission will find new energy after
months of challenge.

Lead us to reach out to those of other faiths and no faith

so that, together, we may be a blessing in the world you
love.

God of healing and hope,

We pray for our neighbourhoods and our nation.

Where people are divided and bitterness turns into resentment,
show us how to work for reconciliation.

Inspire our leaders at every level of community life
to work together for the care of the most vulnerable
and to restore the goodness of our common life
as we recover from the effects of these months of
pandemic.

Make us generous citizens and careful stewards
of the land you entrust to us together.

God of justice and mercy,

We pray for the world you love, the world Christ died to redeem,
so deeply divided by religious and political animosities,
by ancient bitterness and current conflict.

Encourage world leaders to work for peace and understanding,
especially in places torn by violence,
and areas still struggling with the effects of the
pandemic,
by poverty, hunger and the effects of natural
disasters.

May the hope Jesus embodies encourage us all to work for
positive change.

God of courage and comfort,

We remember those of our congregation and community
in need of your special attention today....

Use us as agents of your healing and hope
as we offer ourselves in Jesus' name in the words he taught
us to pray

The Lord's Prayer

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.

[EOORC Prayer Cycle](#)

Denbigh-Matawatchan-Schutt Pastoral Charge

Emmanuel United Church

St. Andrew's United Church

St. Luke's United Church

[The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle](#)

Cyprus, Greece, Turkey

We Depart to Serve with Joy

Hymn MV 196 "We Will Take What You Offer" (Iona)

*We will take what you offer, we will live by your word;
We will love one another and be led by you, Lord*

*We will take what you offer, we will live by your word;
We will love one another and be led by you, Lord*

Benediction

Carry grace into a broken world.
Bring justice to the outsiders.
Visit all who are alone and lonely.
Gather up the dispirited,
Take hold of the lost
and embrace them as family.

Choral Amen

Postlude "Corn Riggs Are Bonnie" (Burns)