



Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany - C  
January 30, 2022

Key Scripture - Jeremiah 1:4, 5

"Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.""



Theme - You Will be Ready

## 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](mailto:wendy.earl75@yahoo.com)
- I am interested to see what you request. Please stay safe and stay well.

## Looking Ahead

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

**2 February, 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**                    359 "He Came Singing Love"

## **Call to Worship**

O Lord, in you we find refuge;

**Let us never be put to shame.**

Turn your ear to us, O God, and save us.

**For you are our rock and our fortress.**

God has been our hope and our trust from our earliest days.

**God has been with us since we were born from our mother's womb.**

Let us sing out our praise of God's steadfast love.

**We will offer God all glory and honour this day and always!**

## **Opening Prayer**

Almighty and Everlasting One,

Your power is incomparable, your majesty infinite,  
and your love beyond our imagining.

You are hidden in mystery, and yet so present.

In a hectic world, you are peace and rest.

In a harsh world, you are tenderness and mercy.

In the cold and dark of winter, you are light and comfort,  
and so we bring you our worship,

for you are the One who created us,  
the One who redeems us,  
and the One who gives us life,

our one and only God,  
to whom we offer all love and loyalty, now and  
always. Amen.

**Hymn 372 "Though I May Speak"**

Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain,  
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,  
and striving so my love profess,  
but not be given by love within,  
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,  
our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
by this we worship, and are freed.

**Time With Children**

**Children's Prayer**

**Prayer of Confession**

**God, whose name is love,  
You know us through and through.  
You tell us love is patient and kind,  
and you know when our patience and kindness fall short.  
You tell us love is never rude or selfish,  
and you see the times we insist on our own way.**

**Forgive us when our love falters.  
Strengthen us by your Spirit so that our love is genuine and  
reliable.**

### **Words of Assurance**

God is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.  
As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is God's love;  
as far as the east is from the west,  
so far has God removed our sins.  
Thanks be to God whose love and forgiveness are steadfast.  
May we be steadfast in our forgiveness of one another.

**Scripture**            Jeremiah 1:4-10  
                             Psalm 71:1-6 (VU789)  
                             1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
                             Luke 4:21-30

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
and before you were born I consecrated you;  
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I  
am only a boy.”

But the Lord said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’;  
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,  
and you shall speak whatever I command you.  
Do not be afraid of them,  
for I am with you to deliver you,  
says the Lord.”

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord  
said to me,

“Now I have put my words in your mouth.  
See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,  
to pluck up and to pull down,  
to destroy and to overthrow,  
to build and to plant.”

Psalm 71:1-6 (VU789)

*Refrain -*

***A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.***

In you, O God, I seek refuge; may I never be disappointed.

**In your righteousness, save and rescue me;**

**incline your ear and deliver me.**

Be a sheltering rock for me,

a fortress where I may find safety;

**for you are my rock and my stronghold.**

Rescue me, O God, from the hand of the wicked,

from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.

**For you are my hope, my trust from my youth;**

**from the time of my birth I have leaned on you.**

## ***Refrain -***

***A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.***

### 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

### Luke 4:21-30

Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" And he said, "Truly I tell you,

no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

**Meditation** "The Rose" (Amanda McBroom)

**Reflection** You Will be Ready

Billy Elliot is a 2000 British coming-of-age comedy-drama set in County Durham in North East England during the 1984–1985 miners' strike, the film is about a son of a miner who discovers a passion for ballet. His father objects, based on his aversion to stereotypes of male ballet dancers. But Billy Elliot, an 11-year-old boy, loves to dance and has hopes of becoming a professional ballet dancer.

Billy's father sends him to the gym to learn boxing, but he sees that a ballet class is using the same gym and he joins it. When his father discovers this, he forbids Billy to take any more classes. But Billy secretly continues. His dance instructor believes that he is talented enough to study at the Royal Ballet School in London. His father and brother are outraged.

Later, Billy's father catches him dancing in the gym and, seeing that his son is gifted, he resolves to do whatever it takes to help Billy attain his dream. Ultimately, Miners and members of the community raise sufficient funds, and Billy goes to London. At 25, Billy performs as the Swan in Swan Lake, as his father and brother watch from the audience. Billy's



father is moved by his performance.

Billy Elliott represented a radical change in his family's tradition and culture. He was the son of a miner. His deviation from family expectations was troublesome. But at the end of the day, this was Billy's calling, this was Billy's life, this was Billy's business. To be a dancer was a complete departure from his father's expectations. His father was not supportive at first but as the story unfolds, he is reconciled to the talent and calling of his son. Billy's gift and success brings acceptance and pride.

It would have been a different story if rather than being called to dance, Billy was called to replace or dismantle or reform the very structures in which his family found their livelihood and comfort and sustenance. It would have been very different if Billy felt a call that questioned the validity of his family's work or tradition or culture. This would be quite a different departure.

Jeremiah was different from Billy Elliot. Jeremiah was the son of a Priest, called to be a Prophet. Jeremiah, the son of a priest, was destined to become a Priest himself. Instead, he is called to be a Prophet. One might think that being called a prophet is not so far out of line with the Priesthood... but this is not the case. Priests proclaim what is known, what is passed on, what is familiar. Priests preserve a tradition. Prophets are reformers. The very things that Jeremiah would be called to reform were the structures that his family would have believed they were called to preserve.

As the story goes, Israel had forsaken God by worshiping the idols of Baal. The nation had broken the covenant. The Priesthood was part of the failure as the traditions they pretended to preserve were corrupted. Jeremiah was guided by God to proclaim that the nation of Judah would suffer famine, foreign conquest, plunder, and captivity in a land of strangers; due in part to the failure of the Priestly class to properly

maintain the traditions they were called to maintain.

Jeremiah speaks concerning the Priests and false Prophets -

***The priests did not say, “Where is the Lord?”***

***Those who handle the law did not know me;***

***the rulers transgressed against me;***

***the prophets prophesied by Baal,***

***and went after things that do not profit.***

Jeremiah 2:8

It is little wonder that -

***... when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the Lord had commanded him to speak ... the priests and ... all the people laid hold of him, saying, “You shall die!***

Jeremiah 26:7-8

Perhaps this is what Jesus meant when he said -

***“Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown.”***

In the days of Jeremiah, the role of a priest was to keep things recognizable. Priests are the ones you call when you want things to remain the same. Prophets are called to usher in change and reform. This is completely new for Jeremiah. Of course he did not know how to speak, his whole formation and vocabulary was one that suited stability, not change and reform. This is a very difficult call to follow.

We know how to be stable. We know how to live in normal days. We even know how to re-form temporarily to meet a crisis. We were very well sorted prior to COVID. Our ministry was certainly traditional. Our

rhythms were pretty much the same as most other churches, United or otherwise. As different as we may have claimed or thought ourselves to be, we were quite recognizable. If and when we changed or introduced something new, it was incremental. Our traditions remained unmolested. Business planning and budgeting were all pretty orthodox and standard. From one year to the next, we continued on the trajectory we were following for some time.

It may be that for many our expectation is that when we return, we will look much like we did before, that our ministry and mission will remain and we will resume. We may expect that our “New Normal” will be more “Normal” than “New.” We may anticipate the end of COVID and imagine a world that is much the same as it was before we were so rudely interrupted.

Post COVID may be as different for us as being called to be a Prophet was different for Jeremiah who, until that point, was assumed to be a Priest. Like Jeremiah, it may feel difficult and strange.

It may well be that we are called to a prophetic time. And we may find ourselves understanding Jeremiah’s protest - ***“Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a [youth].”***

Jeremiah and Jesus both stood at the threshold of great change, as we might very well be even now. Our news reports, discord, anxiety, protest, threat of war, economic uncertainty, a disenchantment with religion; all casting a sense of foreboding for some. These are our days. Perhaps these days are like echoes of the days of Jeremiah and the days of Jesus. Here we stand. But know this, we do not stand alone. We do not stand unprepared.

***“Do not say, ‘I am only a [youth]’;***

***for you shall go to all to whom I send you,***

***and you shall speak whatever I command you.***

*Now I know only in part;  
then I will know fully,  
even as I have been fully known.*

Just as Jesus “*passed through the midst of them and went on his way,*” we will pass through this time of turmoil as prophets, sustained by faith and hope, holding up the banner of love.

We will be called, we will be prepared, we will endure.

**Hymn** 288 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;  
There is no shadow of turning with thee;  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Refrain -*

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

*Refrain -*

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;*

*All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow –  
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.

**Refrain -**

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!*

### **Invitation to the Offering**

Paul reminds us that the greatest of gifts is love.

The blessings we enjoy in life speak of God's love for us.

What we offer to God speaks of our love for the One who has reached out to us in Jesus.

May our gifts share that love with God's world.

### **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](mailto:secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca)
- by mail OR by delivery to church office by prearranged time
- through Trinity website DONATE button
- PAR

### **Offering Prayer**

God of life and love, we are grateful for all you have given us in  
Christ and in creation,  
in community and in the Church that bears Jesus' name.  
We offer our gifts to you in love, trusting you will bless them and us.  
May all that we offer become tangible expressions of your love at  
work in the world  
for Christ's sake. Amen

**Hymn** 649 "Walk With Me"

*Walk with me, I will walk with you  
and build the land that God has planned  
where love shines through.*

When Moses heard the call of God he said, "Lord, don't send me."  
But God told Moses, "You're the one to set my people free."

Now Peter was a most unlikely man to lead the flock,  
But Jesus knew his holiness and he became the Rock.

Young Mary Magdalene was sure her life could be much more,  
And by her faith she dared to let God's love unlock the door.

And when you share your faith with me and work for life made new,  
The witness of your faithfulness calls me to walk with you.

*Walk with me, I will walk with you  
and build the land that God has planned  
where love shines through.*

**Prayers of the People**

Dear God,

Your love is patient.

We give you thanks for all those who have been patient with us,  
teaching us and caring for us in so many ways.

We pray for the patience to love others as you have loved us.

God of love,

**Hear our prayer.**

Your love is kind.

Thank you for every unexpected gesture of kindness we have  
received.

Give us the courage to be kind to others,  
serving those who seem unkind, rude, or difficult to love in  
these difficult days.

Remind us that each one we meet is your child,  
our sister or brother made in your image.

God of love,

**Hear our prayer.**

Your love is not arrogant, nor does it seek its own interests.

Thank you for all who work to serve those who cannot fend for  
themselves.

Strengthen those who have lost hope and confidence in their own  
value.

Give us insight to speak the truth in love  
and to work for change that creates opportunities for those on  
the margins  
and respect for any who face discrimination.

God of love,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Your love is not quick-tempered.

Thank you for every occasion when someone spared us from their anger.

We pray for those who are filled with anger  
and for all around them who face or fear violence.  
Raise up advocates for children and elders who are abused,  
and rescue those who are trapped in relationships that injure and harm.

God of love,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Your love bears all things; it never fails.

We thank you for those we have loved in this life  
and who now dwell in the peace and joy of your presence.  
Let your comfort settle on those who are bereaved or lonely this day.  
We remember before you those with heavy burdens, many cares,  
much stress,  
and those who find too little comfort and help.  
Open our eyes to those in need around us  
and show us how to offer support and companionship,  
for the sake of Christ, our friend and savior,  
who taught us to pray together -

### **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](#)

**Bells Corners Pastoral Charge**  
Bell's Corners United Church

[The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle](#)

**Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, Tunisia**

**We Depart to Serve with Joy**

**Hymn** 333 "Love Divine"

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee,  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

## **Benediction**

God touches our mouths,  
**so we may go to share the good news.**  
Jesus touches our hands,  
**so we may serve all in need of life and hope.**

The Spirit touches our hearts,  
**so we may be a haven for those  
who are longing for acceptance and love.**

**Choral Amen**

**Postlude** "Andante" from "Voluntary V" (Stanley)