



TRINITY
UNITED CHURCH
Smiths Falls, Ontario, Canada

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany - A
January 29, 2023

“O LORD, who may abide in your
tent?
Who may dwell on your holy hill?”
Psalm 15:1

Welcome and Announcements

- † Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.
 - Trinity is an Affirming Congregation
- † Our building is open 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Monday through Thursday

Welcoming New Members - this phase of exploration is a good time to join us, as we listen for our Call together.

Smiths Falls Community Food Bank appreciates donations

Please pray for our **Children and Children's Programming**. In person Sunday School is the 2nd and last Sunday of the Month

The Christian Community Team would like to know if there are those willing and able to pick somebody up on the way to church.

Soaking Prayer is offered each Sunday following the Service

January 29,
12:30pm, **Drum Circle**

January 30,
1:00pm, **Book Group**

February 1,
10:00am, **Bible Study**

February 12,
8:30am, **Early Communion**
9:00am, **Choir Practice**

The Belonging Project - Experience and practice good connection through this introductory series of five sessions. This Tuesday, 31 January to 28 February, 3-5pm in the Trinity Chapel

Want to know more? See the December Communicator or contact Carol Williams, 613 269 4427, journey@ripnet.com

Please plan to attend all five sessions for the full two hours

Confirmation Class continues

Introit MV 92 "Like A Rock"

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

Call to Worship

God calls us to seek justice:

Let Christ's love for the poor and hungry fill the earth.

God calls us to show kindness,

Let Christ's light shine in places of brokenness and despair.

God calls us to walk humbly in the Spirit,
Let us join the work of the kingdom in humility and hope.

Called, blessed and inspired, let us worship God together.

Opening Prayer

God of wisdom and blessing,
On this cold day we come into the warmth of your presence.
Here we find shelter in the strength of your promises;
here we find welcome in your tender care.
Grateful for the protection you provide,
thankful for the comfort of your community,
we offer our praise to you.
For you give blessing when the world condemns;
you bring freedom when the culture confines.
Embrace us with your love in this hour of worship
as we offer you our love in return.
Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Hymn 642 "Be Thou My Vision"

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art -
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, I thy true son;
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight;
 be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r;
 raise thou me heav'n-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
 thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
 High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
 may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
 still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Prayer of Confession

God of the ages,

We confess the world's wisdom attracts us, in advertisement and argument.

We fail to measure messages according to the wisdom in your Word.

**We find calls to do justice too demanding,
 for the world has taught us to look to our own interests first.**

Forgive us, we pray.

Renew us with your mercy,

**so that we may walk more humbly with you and each other
day by day. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Jesus said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Though God knows our failings, forgiveness is ours in Jesus Christ. Rejoice and be glad for his renewing love.

Scripture Micah 6:1-8
 Psalm 15 (VU736)
 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
 Matthew 5:1-12

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the Lord has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

Psalm 15 (VU736)

Refrain -

*Within your holy place, O God,
who shall a dweller be?*

God, who may be a guest in your house,
or who may dwell on your holy mountain?

Refrain -

*Within your holy place, O God,
who shall a dweller be?*

One who leads a blameless life,
**who does what is right,
who speaks truthfully from the heart;**

one whose tongue is free from malice,
**who never wrongs a friend,
who utters no reproach against a neighbour;**

one who cannot respect the unworthy,
but honours those who fear God;
**who stands by a promise given,
though it be to personal disadvantage;**

one who will not take interest on a loan,
nor accept a bribe to testify against the innocent.
Whoever does this shall never be overthrown.

*Refrain -
Within your holy place, O God,
who shall a dweller be?*

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter
all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the
prophets who were before you.

Meditation "Still, Still, Still" (arr. Hobson)

Reflection Expand Your Circles
who may be a guest in your house,
or who may dwell on your holy mountain?

Refrain -

*Within your holy place, O God,
who shall a dweller be?*

One who leads a blameless life,
**who does what is right,
who speaks truthfully from the heart;**

one whose tongue is free from malice,
**who never wrongs a friend,
who utters no reproach against a neighbour;**

one who cannot respect the unworthy,
but honours those who fear God;
**who stands by a promise given,
though it be to personal disadvantage;**

one who will not take interest on a loan,
nor accept a bribe to testify against the innocent.

Whoever does this shall never be overthrown.

Hymn MV 12 "Come Touch Our Hearts

Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,
From failing embers build a blazing fire;
Love strong enough to overturn injustice,
To seek a world more gracious,
Come touch and bless our hearts.

Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,
Your quiet presence all our fears dispel;
Create a space for spirit to grow in us,
Let life and beauty fill us,
Come touch and bless our souls.

Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,
Set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;
Help us to open doors of understanding,
To welcome truth and wisdom,
Come touch and bless our minds.

Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,
And in our weakness your great strength reveal;
That we may rise to follow and to serve,
Steady now our nerve,
Come touch and bless our wills.

Come touch us now, this people who are gathered,
To break the bread and share the cup of peace;
That we may love you with our heart, our soul,
Our mind, our strength, our all,
Come touch us with your grace.

Invitation to the Offering

The prophet Micah declared that God calls us to do justice, love kindness and walk with humble hearts. So we offer our gifts humbly, trusting God will use them and us for kind and just purposes in the world God loves.

Offering Options

- E-transfers to secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca
- delivery to church office
- through Trinity website DONATE button
- PAR

Offering Prayer

God of Life, from you all loving kindness, justice and mercy flow. Bless these gifts so that acts of kindness, justice and mercy flow from them, too. And bless our lives so the world may see in us signs of your kingdom at work in the church and community, in Christ's name. Amen.

Time for the Young

Hymn 626 "I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say"

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast."

I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down, and drink, and live."

I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise;
and all your day be bright."

I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till travelling days are done.

Prayers of the People

Blessed are you, most holy God,
for you give release to the captives and food to the hungry.

Bless us as we hunger and thirst for your justice and righteousness.
May all who are needy find their hope in you.

Compassionate God, we thank you for your mercy.

You give pardon for our sin and call us to forgive others.

Embrace with your renewing grace those who are resentful or discouraged.

Help us serve as instruments of reconciliation when discord or conflict arises.

Righteous God, we thank you for your justice.

You watch over all who suffer and empower your people to act for good.

Bless the work of our church and its partners
to advocate for justice and dignity in our communities and in your world.

Keep safe all who live under threat of violence or struggle for life's necessities.

Caring God, we thank you for your comfort.

You strengthen us when we are weak and pick us up when we fall.

Bless us as we support and care for one another in this community.

Surround all who mourn with the warmth of your love and the light of our hope in Christ Jesus.

God of new life, we give you thanks for your enlivening Spirit.

You give courage to the persecuted and inspire the weary.

Bless us as we strive to make a difference as a community in Christ's name.

Unite your Church by the power of your Holy Spirit,

and strengthen our common witness with the gifts you offer us through Jesus Christ.

And now we gather our prayers into one voice and pray as Jesus taught -

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 Delta-Toledo Pastoral Charge -
Delta United Church, St. Andrew's United Church

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle
Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, Tunisia

We Depart to Serve in Peace and with Love

Hymn 424 "May The God of Hope Go with Us"

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.

May the God of justice speed us on our way,
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace, singing, share our joy with all,
Working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

May the God of healing free the earth from fear,
Freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.

May the God of love our commitment clear
To a world restored, to human life renewed.

Praying, let us work for peace, singing, share our joy with all,
Working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Benediction

May the God of justice strengthen your will to serve.

May the Christ of compassion inspire your heart to love.

May the Holy Spirit walk with you in wisdom this day and always.

Choral Amen

Postlude "In Dulci Jubilo" (de Pearsall)

Recurring Events and Activities at Trinity

Every Monday, 1:00pm	Book Group
First Monday, 9:30am	UCW
Fourth Monday, 9:30am	Property Team / Church Hall
Every Tuesday, All Day	Pastoral Visitation
First Tuesday, 1:00pm - 3:00pm	Retirement Residences
First Tuesday, 7:00pm	Outreach and Social Justice
Third Tuesday, 9:30am	Stewardship & Finance Team / Upper Room
Third Tuesday, 6:00pm	Potluck and Praise
Every Wednesday, 10:00am	Bible Study / Seasonal Study
Second Wednesday, 12:30pm	Healing Pathway
Second Wednesday, 7:00pm	Spiritual Leadership Meeting
Fourth Wednesday, 12:30pm	Healing Pathway
Last Wednesday, 7:00pm	Council
Second Friday, 6:00pm	Rainbow 101
Every Sunday, 8:30am (Except Second Sunday)	Choir Practice
Every Sunday, 11:30am	Soaking Prayer
Second Sunday, 8:30am	Early Communion
Second Sunday, 9:00am	Choir Practice
Second Sunday, 10:30am	Sunday School
Last Sunday, 10:30am	Sunday School
Last Sunday, 1:00pm	Lanark Drum Circle