



TRINITY
UNITED CHURCH
Smiths Falls, Ontario, Canada

Sixth Sunday After Epiphany - A
February 12, 2023

“You have heard that it was said to
those of ancient times,…”

Matthew 5:21

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

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

Social Time after church will start this Sunday. Sign Up sheet for individuals and groups to take a turn posted in the Hall

February 13,
1:00pm, **Book Group**
3:30pm, **Confirmation**
Sessions

February 14, **Visitation**
3:00, **The Belonging Project**

February 15,
10:00am, **Bible Study**

February 21,
6:00pm, **Potluck and Prayers**
- Shrove Tuesday

February 22,
10:30am, **Ash Wednesday**
11:30am, **Lenten Discussion**
6:30pm, **Ash Wednesday**

February 26,
12:30, **Drum Circle**

Introit MV 63 "Long Before My Journey's Start"

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

How blessed are we when we meditate on God's teachings;

and when we desire God with our whole hearts.

Let us praise God with attentive minds and eager spirits,

for we are God's servants, working and praying together.

So let us worship God and praise God's holy name.

Let us seek God's path and listen for God's call.

Opening Prayer

God of all life and each life,

You are the light of minds that seek to know you.

You are strength for those who seek to serve you.

You reveal truth to those who search for you.

In worship, we pause in your presence,
resting from our work and responsibilities,
from our worries and distractions.

We come to enjoy your presence
and praise you for the gift of life in Christ and in creation.

Receive our prayers and praise this day,
for we open our hearts in love and loyalty to you,
O God, our All in All. Amen.

Hymn MV 10 "Come And Seek The Words Of Wisdom"

Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,
she who danced when earth was new.

Follow closely what she teaches,
for her words are right and true.

Wisdom clears the path to justice,
showing us what love must do.

Listen to the voice of Wisdom,
crying in the marketplace.

Hear the Word made flesh among us,
full of glory, truth, and grace.

When the word takes root and ripens,
peace and righteousness embrace.

Sister Wisdom, come, assist us;
nurture all who seek rebirth.

Spirit-guide and close companion,
bring to light our sacred worth.

Free us to become your people,
holy friends of God and earth.

Prayer of Confession

God who is all in all,

**You call us to choose life and walk in your ways,
but we are tempted by short cuts and easy solutions.
You ask us to turn from anger and settle our differences,
but we cling to grievances and point fingers at others.
You ask us to be true to our word,
but we prefer to keep everyone happy.**

Forgive us, O God;

and give us courage to follow the paths you set for your people.

Assurance of Pardon

God invites us to choose life and find the blessing that comes from following God's ways. Accept God's gift of forgiveness and choose new life. Forgive one another and discover the peace of Christ. Amen.

Scripture Psalm 119:1-8 (VU 838 Part One)
 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
 Matthew 5:21-37

Psalm 119:1-8 (VU 838 Part One)

Refrain -

Happy are they who follow your law, O God!

Happy are those who live a blameless life,
who follow your law, O God.

**Happy are those who keep your decrees,
who seek you with their whole heart.**

They also do no wrong, but walk in your ways.

You have given your precepts for us to keep diligently.

Refrain -

Happy are they who follow your law, O God!

O that my ways might be steadfast
in the keeping of your statutes.

**Then I will not be put to shame,
when I hear all your commandments.**

I will truly thank you from the heart,
when I learn your righteous decrees.

I will keep your statutes. O do not utterly forsake me.

Refrain -

Happy are they who follow your law, O God!

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people but rather as fleshly, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still fleshly. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not fleshly and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not all too human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and each will receive wages according to their own labor. For we are God's coworkers, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

Matthew 5:21-37

"You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder,' and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' But I say

to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment, and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council, and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

"It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

"Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' But I say to you: Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

Meditation "The Rose" (McBroom)

Reflection Don't Forget the Resurrection

Hymn 658 "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.

Invitation to the Offering

God sets choices before us. Some can bring life and blessing, but others lead to despair. When we give our gifts to God, we make a choice for life, a choice to bless others in God's holy name. So trust that God will bless the choice we make today.

Offering Options

- E-transfers to secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca

- delivery to church office
- through Trinity website DONATE button
- PAR

Offering Prayer

Gracious and generous God, we bring our gifts to you in thanksgiving. Bless them and surprise us by all the Holy Spirit can accomplish with them. Bless our lives, too, so that our choices will always honour you for Christ's sake. Amen.

Time for the Young

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.

Prayers of the People

God of Life and Love,

In spoken words and in the silence of our hearts,
we give you thanks for all of life,
for the grace you provide to creation in its diversity,
and for your loving kindness known in the details of our
lives.

Hear us, we pray, as we speak of matters on our hearts and minds this
day -

Where the church is divided,
where Christians emphasize our differences instead of seeking
unity in Christ,
where we put energy into guarding tradition
at the expense of honouring new life and relationships with
our neighbours:
transform us and make all things new.

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Where families are divided by old hurts or new tensions,
where friendships have ended through misunderstanding or
neglect,
where relationships have been severed by betrayal or
thoughtlessness -
transform us and make all things new.

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Where countries are torn by war and conflict,

where communities are divided by prejudice or unexamined
privilege,
where leaders provoke anger instead of building understanding
co-operation -
transform us and make all things new.

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Where the poor and lonely find little support or comfort,
where people are tired from overwork or pressured by rising
costs;
where workers fear for their jobs in the present or the future;
transform us and make all things new.

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Where people suffer pain with physical, emotional or spiritual roots,
Where loss marks the beginning and ending of every day,
Where young people fear for the future of the planet
and their elders mourn the loss of what they once assumed
would last -
Transform us and make all things new.

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God, our Source and Saviour, in Christ you make all things new.
And so, united in one voice, we pray the words he taught us -

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 Ashton-Munster Pastoral Charge
Ecumenical Prayer Cycle
Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland

We Depart to Serve in Peace and with Love

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

Go with joy and peace, to claim new life as you serve God and one another.

And may the blessing of God who is Source, Saviour and Spirit of Life be with you and those whose lives you touch, this day and always.
Amen.

Choral Amen

Postlude "Tonight" (Bernstein)

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