

PALGRAVE UNITED CHURCH

January 28, 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

HOLY COMMUNION

Sing a New Song

Introit

Lighting the Christ Candle

Greeting and announcements

Territorial Acknowledgement

Call to Worship:

We come to this time having experienced the burdens and blessings of life in varying measures. Through it all, we are grateful to God, who surrounds us with a love from which nothing can separate us.

As we move into this time of worship, let us centre ourselves in God.

Hymn: Come In and Sit Down VU 395

**Come in, come in and sit down,
you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found,
and we are a part of the family.**

You know the reason why you came,
yet no reason can explain;
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,
for we are a part of the family.

Refrain

God is with us in this place,
like a Mother's warm embrace.
We're all forgiven by God's grace,
for we are a part of the family.

Refrain

There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine;
we are the branches Christ is the vine.
This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine,
but we are a part of the family.

Refrain

There's rest for the weary and health for us all;
there's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.
So come in and worship and answer the call,
for we are a part of the family.

Refrain

Gathering Prayers

All-knowing God, we gather in worship with praise and thanksgiving for who you are and for all that you have done for us.

You know us better than we know ourselves, all our thoughts and actions, and yet you love us. No matter where we go or what we do, your love encircles us - gently leading and guiding and blessing.

We praise you for your love and your faithful presence in our lives.

May your Spirit move in our hearts and minds as we worship together.

Examine our attitudes and actions, lay bare the things we need to confess, challenge us with your Word, and guide us on to paths that lead to life.

In our worship and our work, may we live as your people.

We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Hymn:

Will You Come and See the Light VU 96

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 step into the light that can free the slave?

It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.

By the pyramids of greed
there's a longing to be freed;
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?
Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well.
When the truth is cut and bruised,
and the innocent abused,
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 cradle 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?

Scripture Readings:

Psalm 111
Mark 1:21-28

Sermon

And There is More!

Hymn:

Dear Weaver of Our Lives' Design VU 623

Dear weaver of our lives' design
whose patterns all obey,
with skillful fingers gently guide
the sturdy threads that will survive
the tangle of our days,
the tangle of our days.

Take up the fabric of our lives
with hands that gently hold;
bind in the ragged edge that care
would sunder and that pain would tear,
and mend our ravelling souls,
and mend our ravelling souls.

Let eyes that in the plainest cloth
a hidden beauty see
discern in us our richest hues,
show us the patterns we may use
to set our spirits free
to set our spirits free.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Hymn:

All Who Hunger VU 460

All who hunger, gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering.
Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers;
seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered
in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together;
Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table
live their lives in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

Invitation

As we share this meal, may we be nourished by the memory of Jesus, who fed those no one else would feed, who included the sinners and those that society shunned, who drew healing energy out of people who had lost hope, who heard the cries of people who were desperate, and nourished them with love and life-giving food.

Prayer

Loving God, you draw and welcome us - emptied of pride and hungry for grace, to this your kingdom feast. We find the food for which our souls cry out here at your table. Invigorate and nourish us, good Lord, that in and through this Bread and Wine, your love may meet us, and your life complete us, in the power and glory of your kingdom. Amen.

Thanksgiving

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks and praise to God.

It is right to do so.

We praise you, O God, for your unswerving love for us. You take what is broken and transform it through your love.

You take that which has been made ugly by sin and make it beautiful by grace.

So we join with your people in heaven and earth to give you praise:

**Holy, holy, holy God,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

In your last meal with your friends, you took bread and gave thanks.

You broke it and shared it, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body broken for you.

Do this in in remembrance of me."

May Christ's broken body nourish us in all the right places.

You took the cup of wine, gave thanks and shared it, saying: "Drink this; this the new covenant in my blood poured out for you. Do this in Remembrance of me."

May the love that flowed from Christ's wounds heal us in all the right places.

This is the table of Christ.
Here Christ welcomes us all as we are.
Here we find our place in the community of faith.
When Jesus poured the wine and broke the bread;
the table became a foretaste of love made real, and of a world made whole.

Let us celebrate the feast of our life in God.

Sharing The Meal

Prayer

**Eternal God, we thank you that you have called us to feast at the table of Jesus.
Keep us faithful to your will. Go with us into the streets, to our homes and to our places of
labour and relaxation; that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant
church of the servant Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Hymn: Sent Forth by God's Blessing VU 481

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.

The supper is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.

The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.

God's grace did invite us, God's love shall unite us
to work for the kingdom and answer its call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.

Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, of each tribe and race.

With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.

Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honour to Christ and his name that we bear.

Offering

Benediction

Closing Chorus:

Go Now in Peace / Besig & Price

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.