



# ORDER FOR WORSHIP

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany*

*January 29, 2023*

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*Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.*

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## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

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### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to acknowledge this land on which St. Philip's Lutheran Church is located. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples. We are grateful to have the opportunity to meet, worship, and serve on this land.

### GATHERING SONG

"Let Justice Flow like Streams"

ELW 717

### GREETING

### KYRIE

### CANTICLE OF PRAISE

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

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### FIRST READING

#### ***Micah 6: 1 - 8***

*With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service..*

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. <sup>3</sup>"O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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." <sup>6</sup>"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? <sup>7</sup>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?" <sup>8</sup>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?

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 15

### SECOND READING

#### ***Corinthians 1: 18 - 31***

*According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to*

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*work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers..*

<sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." <sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. <sup>26</sup>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. <sup>27</sup>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; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

### **GOSPEL**

*Matthew 5: 1 - 12*

*Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.*

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

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

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

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

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

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

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

11“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

12Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

*Rev. Tuula Van Gaasbeek*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

“Tis a Gift to be Simple”

Voices United 353

## CREED

**P:** Together we affirm our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends: Merciful God,

Response: **receive our prayer.**

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## SHARING OF PEACE

### JOYFUL NOISE BELL CHOIR

“With Praises, Ring”

*Barbara B. Kinyon*

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

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### PRAYER

Liberating God,  
you break the bonds of injustice  
and let the oppressed go free.  
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving  
for all your works of merciful power,  
and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.  
You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,  
**Amen.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. And so, with all the witnesses of the resurrection, we praise your name and join their never ending song:

### HOLY HOLY HOLY

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

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**Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come and taste the joy of God!

**COMMUNION SONG**

“For the Troubles and the Sufferings”

ACS 1051

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you.. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

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**BLESSING**

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor’s rod † bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG**

“To Be Your Presence”

ELW 546

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

**PERMISSIONS**

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## ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

### SERVING TODAY

Rev. Tuula Van Gaasbeek	Pastor
Chris Ritcey-Conrad	Music Director
Angelika Quinn, Glen Erlandson	Readers
Confirmands	Prayers
St. Philip's Choir	Music
Joyful Noise Bell Choir	Additional Music
Dave Pascoe	Audio Visual
Karen Adolph	Livestream Usher

### THIS WEEK AT ST. PHILIP'S

Monday	Zumba @ 1:00 pm Joyful Noise Bell Choir @ 7:15 pm
Tuesday	Girl Guides @ 6:30 pm Bible Study on Zoom @ 7:00 pm
Wednesday	Cover Girls @ 10:00 am Vocal Choir @ 7:00 pm
Thursday/Friday	

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### IN OUR PRAYERS

Gus Berndt, John Brownlie, Kevin Cartwright, Rodney Erlandson, Mary Hanslep, Al Jacksteit, Matt Kirkpatrick, Mona Kibsey, Mark Kieswetter, John Lindman, Pat Penney, Julie Potocny, Pasquale Rizzo, Ethan Suknundun, Debra, Helen, Lynette, and Marian.

#### INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK: FEB. 1 - 7

You will find all events at: [Interfaith Toronto Home Page.](#)



## ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

### MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### OFFERING

Please place your offering on the plate in the centre aisle. Other options can be found on our website: [stphilipstoronto.com/donate-now/](http://stphilipstoronto.com/donate-now/)

#### 50+ CHILI LUNCHEON

Please join us on **Thursday, February 9 @ 12:30 pm** for lunch followed by speaker: Dr. G. Morningstar answering your current health questions. Please see sign-up sheet in the narthex.

#### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

On **Sunday February 5 @ 2:30 – 7 pm**, we will be providing the community meal at Evangel Hall Mission. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Janelle Lightbourne @ [sja.lightbourne@gmail.com](mailto:sja.lightbourne@gmail.com) or 519.852.6772.

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH: PANCAKE LUNCH AND LEARN

Please join us for a pancakes after church on **Sunday, February 19**. Janelle Lightbourne and Jerry Hogeveen will be speaking on Allyship. Please see sign-up sheet in the narthex.

#### ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES



St. Philip's supports the use of these devices. Please enquire at the audiovisual table.

### OUR VISION

*Freed by the grace of Christ, we seek to connect with God, neighbour and self.*

#### St. Philip's Lutheran Church

61 West Deane Park Drive

Etobicoke, ON M9B 2S1

Phone: 416.622.5577

Email: [stphilip@bellnet.ca](mailto:stphilip@bellnet.ca)

Web: [www.stphilipstoronto.com](http://www.stphilipstoronto.com)