



# ORDER FOR WORSHIP

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

*February 12, 2023*

*In today's reading from Deuteronomy we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. Much of today's gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments. Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. We too are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear of retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us.*

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## GATHERING

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

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WELCOME

PRELUDE

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

L: Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, You are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.

**C: Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in You. You are the fountain of resurrection.**

L: Praise to you for your saving waters: Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

**C: At this font, holy God, we pray: Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this water. Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all Creation. Illuminate our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin within and around us.**

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L: Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### GATHERING SONG

“Spirit, Open My Heart”

ACS 1043

### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

### KYRIE

### CANTICLE OF PRAISE

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

## WORD

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

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### FIRST READING

***Deuteronomy 30: 15 - 20***

*The Lord sets before the people of God a clear choice. Life and prosperity will come to the faithful; loss of the land will be the consequence of disobedience. Choosing life entails loving and holding fast to the Lord. Life in God’s presence presupposes the promise made to the ancestors.*

[Moses said to the people:] <sup>15</sup>See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land

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that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 119: 1 - 18**

### **SECOND READING**

#### **1 Corinthians 3: 1 - 9**

*Human leaders in the church are not the ones who control ministry. Rather they are coworkers who belong to God, the one who truly controls and continuously empowers the ministry of the church.*

<sup>1</sup>Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, <sup>3</sup>for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? <sup>4</sup>For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human? <sup>5</sup>What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. <sup>6</sup>I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup>So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. <sup>8</sup>The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. <sup>9</sup>For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

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## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### GOSPEL

#### *Matthew 5: 21 - 37*

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts his followers to embrace standards of righteousness that exceed legal requirements and traditional expectations.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>21</sup>“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ <sup>22</sup>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. <sup>23</sup>So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. <sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. <sup>27</sup>“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ <sup>28</sup>But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>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. <sup>31</sup>“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ <sup>32</sup>But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. <sup>33</sup>“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.’ <sup>34</sup>But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, <sup>35</sup>or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup>And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make

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one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup>Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON**

*Janelle Lightbourne*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Take My Life, That I May Be”

ELW 583

**CREED**

Together we affirm our faith.

**I believe in God, who has created all life and continues to create new life within me. I believe in Jesus, son of God, son of man, the Savior of the world. By his life, his death and his resurrection from the grave, I can know the true depth of human possibility and experience the true joy of abundant life. I believe the Holy Spirit is present now and always, calling me to faith, giving me gifts, and empowering me for service. I believe the church is the community of faith called to experience the fullness of life through God’s Word made flesh in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each petition ends: Merciful God,

Response: **receive our prayer.**

**SHARING OF PEACE**

## **THANKSGIVING**

*In everything give thanks. 1 Thessalonians 5:18*

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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.**

**THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

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L: Let us give thanks. Praise to you, O God, for your Word of life: creating a wondrous universe, proclaiming freedom from captivity, becoming the song of your people. We praise you, O God, for your Word.

**C: We praise you, Of God, for your Word.**

L: Your Word is made flesh among us; with Mary in the garden, you call us by name. With Thomas beholding your wounds, you call us to believe. With sheep of other folds, we are gathered by your voice. Through your Word, you appoint us to bear fruit, fruit that will last. We bless you, O God, for your Word.

**C: We bless you, O God, for your Word.**

L: By your living Word, we are witnesses of your goodness. Breathe into us your Holy Spirit. Open our bodies to experience the scriptures. Fill us with strength to love, not in word or speech alone, but in truth and action. With every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, all that is in them, we join in the hymn of all creation, as we thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word.

**C: We thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

## 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.**

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## SENDING SONG

“I Shall Not Be Moved”

TFF 147

## 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

Janelle Lightbourne	Preacher
Chris Ritcey-Conrad	Music Director
Confirmands	Prayers
Pat Lovell	Reader
St. Philip's Choir	Music
Dave Pascoe	Audio Visual
Karen Adolph	Livestream Usher

## THIS WEEK AT ST. PHILIP'S

**Today:** Confirmation Class @ 11:30 am; **Monday:** Zumba @ 1pm/Bells @ 7:15pm; **Tuesday:** Good Food Market @ 4pm/Guides @ 6:30pm; **Wednesday:** Cover Girls @ 10am/Choir @ 7pm.

### CLWR – Earthquake Relief

The need is dire. To donate directly to Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) please visit website: <http://clwr.org/earthquake>.



## ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

### IN OUR PRAYERS

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

### 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/)

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH: PANCAKE LUNCH AND LEARN

Please join us for a pancakes after church on **Sunday, February 19**. Topic: Allyship. Please see sign-up sheet in the narthex.

### HOLIDAYS

Pastor Tuula will be away from **Feb. 6 - 17**. Rev. Susan Climo will assist Janelle Lightbourne, Intern, if needed.

### 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.*

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