



... you are the
Son of God!
You are the
King of Israel!

John 1:49, NRSV

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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EPIPHANY 2

January 17, 2021

As we, once again, are not able to meet for “in person” worship, we are back to doing a different form of the bulletin to keep you in touch. Here is your bulletin for today.

Prayer of the Day:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A Reading from the First Book of Samuel

At a time when visions are rare and unexpected, the LORD comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word. Though just a boy, Samuel responds to God obediently, as Eli the priest has taught him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel's prophetic ministry.

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” and ran to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, “Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and if

he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

[Then the Lord said to Samuel, “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.” Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.” Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.” As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.]

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)

Psalm

Lord, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways. Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O Lord, know it altogether. You press upon me behind and before and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it. For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I will thank you because I am marvellously made; your words are wonderful, and I know it well. My body was not hidden from you, while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book; they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them. How deep I find your thoughts, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Paul helps the Corinthians understand that God has claimed the entirety of their lives through the death of Christ. Hence Christian relationships and conduct, including areas of human sexuality, are to reflect the reality that we belong to Christ and that the Holy Spirit lives within us.

“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food.” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

In John’s gospel, Jesus’ ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip’s friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to “Come and see.”

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

John 1:43-51

Sermon:

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!Alrwdlq5YZa1hmJ9yKW02rjMN-4K>

Click on the link above to view Pastor Jeff’s sermon (or you can find it on the website under the separate heading “Sermons”)

Anthem: “*Ye Shall Have a Song*” by Cantus and the National Lutheran Choir

(Click on the link below for the musical version)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9jWN9r6U8pE>

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

For the body of Christ gathered throughout the world and for all servants of the gospel, that following Jesus, the church lives out its calling every day.

For the well-being of creation, for plants and animals, and for all that God has marvellously made, that we serve as wise stewards of Earth, our home.

For police officers and firefighters, for attorneys and paralegals, for peacekeepers and military personnel, and for the leaders of governments, that they provide protection to all people, especially the most vulnerable.

For those lacking food or shelter, for those who are sick or grieving, and for those who are imprisoned or homebound (*especially Muriel, Klaus, Jack, Peter, John, Anne, Mervyn, Ken, Mary, Glenn, Beryl, Katana, Neil, Maria, Ralph, Rose Marie, Nya, Karen, Ron, Brian, and Kolby*) , that God console all who suffer.

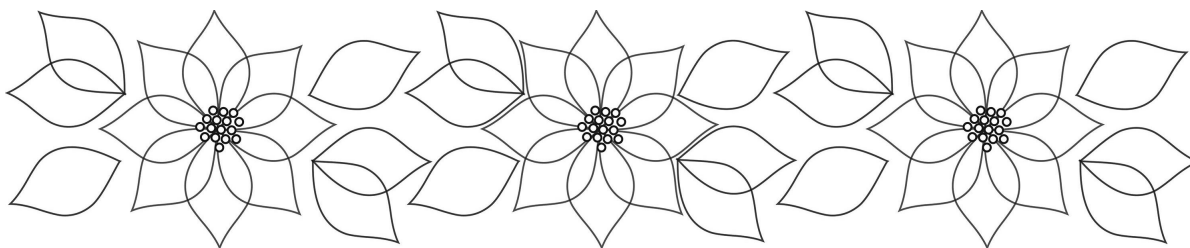
For our neighbourhood, for visitors joining us for the first time or returning, and for those absent from our assembly, that all who seek to know God are nourished by word and sacrament.

In thanksgiving for the saints who have gone before us, that their lives give us a vision of the gospel in action.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour.

ALL EVENTS
REMAIN
CANCELLED
UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE





ANNOUNCEMENTS

**** IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ****

As you probably have heard, Ontario has been placed in lock down as of 12:01 A.M. December 26, 2020.

As a result, the Bishop recommends the suspension of ALL “In-Person” Worship until further notice.

Please stay tuned to our website

www.zionstratford.com

as

Pastor Jeff will continue to record his Sermons and Jane will continue to advise you of any updates and/or further announcements.

ETERNITY FOR TODAY

We have a few copies of “Eternity For Today” available. Anyone interested in checking out this publication, which emphasizes “Living our Faith” through daily prayer and scripture readings, is asked to call Jane in the office at 519-271-8527 to make arrangements to have one delivered to you.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

As we, once again, find ourselves in a “lock down” situation and under a “stay home order”, we hope the following words bring you some comfort.

Together In Solitude: The Challenge

© Jennifer N. Evensen

*If you're anxious that all have been asked to stay home,
Take comfort in knowing you are not alone.*

*Tonight at 8, wherever you are,
Gaze up at the sky and pick out a star.*

*A moment alone or with people you love,
We all share the beautiful sky high above.*

*Take 30 seconds, be still in your mind;
Reflect on a happy, most memorable time.*

*The littlest things can give hearts a lift;
If we pause, take a moment, and cherish our gifts.*



PLEASE REMEMBER TO BE SAFE & STAY HEALTHY !!

HAVE FAITH, WE WILL BE TOGETHER AGAIN !!