

**HE TAUGHT  
THEM AS ONE  
WHO HAD AUTHORITY**

**MARK 1:22**

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

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## EPIPHANY 4

January 31, 2021

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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:

**Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Saviour. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

### *A Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy*

*Today’s reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.*

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” Then the Lord replied to me: “They are right in what they have said, I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak – that prophet shall die.”

*Deuteronomy 18:15-20*

## Psalm

Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation. Great are the deeds of the Lord! they are studied by all who delight in them. His work is full of majesty and splendour, and his righteousness endures for ever. He makes his marvellous works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and full of compassion. He gives food to those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant. He has shown his people the power of his works in giving them the lands of the nations. The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; all his commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity. He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant for ever; holy and awesome in his name. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures for ever.

*Psalm 111*

## ***A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians***

*Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.*

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols; we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him. Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth – as in fact there are many gods and many lords – yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in a temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

*1 Corinthians 8:1-13*

## ***The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark***

*Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.*

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching – with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

*Mark 1:21-28*

### **Sermon:**

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!AlrwdIq5YZa1hwHE2rFKWPKLasCE>

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:** “*Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*”      Performed by Sandra Mogensen  
(Click on the link below for the musical version)

<https://youtu.be/TjTi7zWcH6Y>

### **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 all who share the gospel and proclaim freedom in Christ throughout the world: prophets, teachers, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders; for the church and its ministries.

For all God's works in creation: plants and animals, water and soil, forests and farms; and for those tasked with protecting our natural resources and all that exists.

For government and leaders: cities and nations, rescue professionals and legal aid attorneys, elected officials and grassroots organizers; for all responsible for the well-being of civil society.

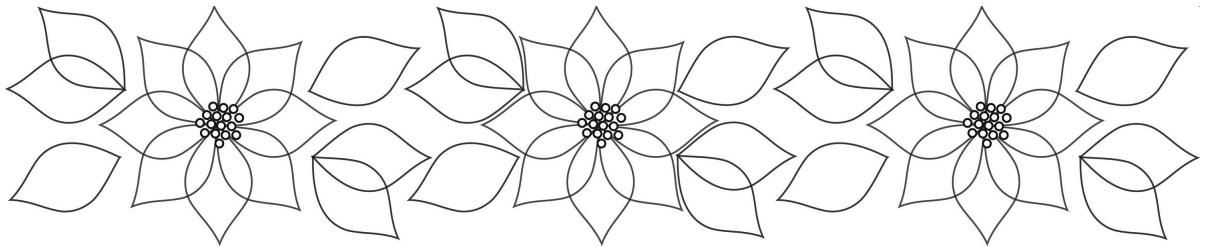
For those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit: those who are sick and hospitalized, those who are struggling with the COVID-19 virus, those struggling with mental illness, those who are hungry or homeless, and all in any need (*especially Muriel, Klaus, Jack, Peter, John, Anne, Mervyn, Ken, Mary, Glenn, Beryl, Katana, Neil, Maria, Ralph, Rose Marie, Nya, Karen, Ron, Brian, and Kolby*); for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides.

For the concerns of this congregation: those who travel, those absent from worship, those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries; for the people of God in this place and for other needs in our community.

For the covenant God made with us in the waters of baptism, in thanksgiving for the baptized who have died in the Lord.

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](http://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.**

## **NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH COUNCIL**

Nominations are now open for Congregational Church Council. Please submit your nomination to Kevin Tuer by email at [kevintuer@gmail.com](mailto:kevintuer@gmail.com) or by phone at 519-273-6205.

Nominations may also be submitted to any other Church Council Member.

## **2020 OFFICIAL RECEIPTS FOR INCOME TAX**

Your 2020 Official Receipts for Income Tax are completed and have been mailed to you with the February issue of ZIONEWS. For those of you who receive the Newsletter via email, your Official Receipts were also be mailed out to you on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

## **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. This week I have chosen:

### **A Prayer to Combat the Coronavirus Pandemic**

Most merciful and Triune God,  
We come to you in our weakness.  
We come to you in our fear.  
We come to you with trust.  
For you alone are our hope.

We place before you the disease present in our world.  
We turn to you in our time of need.

Bring wisdom to doctors.  
Give understanding to scientists.  
Endow caregivers with compassion and generosity.

Bring healing to those who are ill.  
Protect those who are most at risk.  
Give comfort to those who have lost a loved one.  
Welcome those who have died into your eternal home.

Stabilize our communities.  
Unite us in our compassion.  
Remove all fear from our hearts.  
Fill us with confidence in your care.

Jesus, I trust in you.  
Jesus, I trust in you.  
Jesus, I trust in you.  
Amen.

—Unknown Author.

**WE'RE  
IN THIS  
TOGETHER!**