



*Very early in the morning ... Jesus got up, left the house
and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.*

Mark 1:35

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

Church Office: 519-271-8527

website: www.zionstratford.com

Cell: 519-274-1300

email: zionlc@golden.net

People of Zion

Rev. Jeffrey Laustsen

Sister Jean Widmeyer

Paul Shilton

Laura Burton

Sandra Mogensen

Ministers

Pastor

Visitation Minister

Minister of Music

Organist

Pianist

EPIPHANY 5

February 7, 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:

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God”? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even

youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm

Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! how pleasant it is to honour him with praise! The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names. Great is our Lord and mighty in power; there is no limit to his wisdom. The Lord lifts up the lowly, but casts the wicked to the ground. Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make music to our God upon the harp. He covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth; He makes grass to grow upon the mountains and green plants to serve mankind. He provides food for flocks and herds and for the young ravens when they cry. He is not impressed by the might of a horse, he has no pleasure in the strength of a man. But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, in those who await his gracious favour. Hallelujah!

Psalms 147:1-12,21c

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went up to a deserted place and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went through Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Mark 1:29-39

Sermon:

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!Alrwdlq5YZa1hw6NzLYlZaQ1yBc>

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: "Arise, Your Light Has Come"
(Click on the link below for the musical version)

Performed by Sandra Mogensen

<https://youtu.be/tEUbtROAjBU>

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 church: for ministries of healing and wholeness, for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains, for those serving in prison ministry, for all who proclaim freedom and release in the name of Christ.

For creation: for insects in the grass, clouds on the mountaintops, for cattle and the rainwater they drink, for the humility to take our place among all creatures of the earth.

For the nations: for all who lead in cities and towns, states and countries; for community organizers, school officials, and CEOs; for international health organizations, that in times of trial, fear, or hopelessness, they find freedom in service to those most in need.

For all wearied by life's burdens: for those who are poor, for those lacking supportive relationships, for those crushed by debt, for those struggling with chronic pain or other sickness, for those exhausted from overwork or stress, and for all who cry out to you (*Muriel, Klaus, Jack, Peter, John, Anne, Mervyn, Ken, Mary, Glenn, Beryl, Katana, Neil, Maria, Ralph, Rose Marie, Nya, Karen, Ron, Brian, and Kolby*).

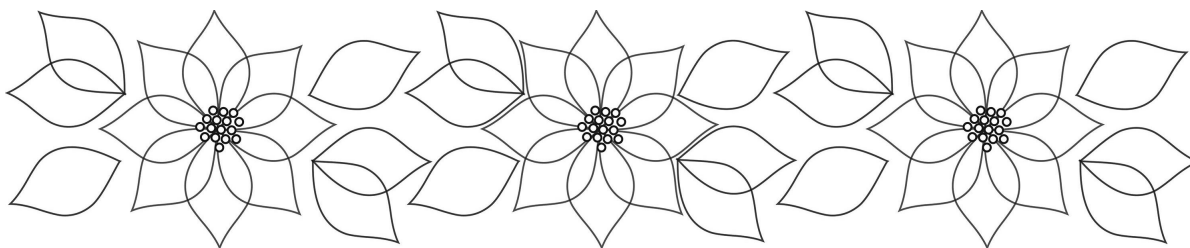
For this congregation, and the congregation of Avon Mennonite Church as they settle into our building ; for parish nurses and visitors; for ministries of companionship and support, for the young people in this place who open us to new understandings.

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed, who were called by name and now rest from their labours, that their lives serve as witnesses to the goodness of God.

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.

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 or by phone at 519-273-6205.

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

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 will bring you some comfort. This week I have chosen:

“A Prayer For Peace During COVID-19”

By Megan Sheehan, communications coordinator, Campus Ministry

Dear Lord,

As the coronavirus (COVID-19) affects our world, we continue to pray.

We invite you into our hearts, Lord — hearts that have so much on them right now.

Amidst our fear, disappointment, confusion, uncertainty, grief, anger, frustration and more...

We invite you in, Lord.

We know you are bigger.

May we be given a peace and understanding of cancellations and social distancing rules.

May we act with humility to not just preserve our own safety and health, but to look beyond ourselves and think of how our actions will affect others.

May we be alert to the ways we may help those around us, and give us the grace to step forward without hesitation to be men and women for and with others, for Your greater glory.

Come to our aid, Lord.

Open our ears to hear your voice in these troubled times, may we listen and be prudent and may we draw ever closer to you.

Amen.