



***Hope Lutheran Church
Home Worship
January 17, 2021 — Epiphany 2***

*We acknowledge our presence on the traditional territory
of the Snuneymuxw First Nation*

Welcome & Announcements

Hymn #668 O Zion, haste

<https://fb.watch/2Ynyk1gliQ/>

**O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling,
To tell to all the world that God is Light;
that he who made all nations is not willing
One should should fix to now his love and might.**

(Refrain)

*Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace;
tidings of Jesus, redemption and release.*

**Proclaim to ev'ry people, tongue, and nation
that God, in whom they live and move, is Love;
tell how he stooped to save his lost creation,
and died on earth that we might live above.**

(Refrain)

*He comes again! O Zion, here thou meet him,
make known to every heart his saving grace;
Let none whom he had ransomed fail to greet him,
through thy neglect, unfit to see his face.*

(Refrain)

May 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.**

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

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dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Children's Corner

First Reading – 1 Samuel 3: 1-20

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 fulfill 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.

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Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, to the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel – John 1:43-51

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 towards him, he said of him, ‘Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!’ Nathanael asked him, ‘Where did you come 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.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

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Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon
John 1:43-51

It was almost twenty years ago. I decided to find an old friend from school. I lost track of him. I heard that he got into a lot of trouble and then moved away without telling anyone.

I knew that he was originally from a small town in the states and he had an unusual last name. So, I checked 411 for that state, town, and name and got a small list of people bearing his surname. I wrote a letter indicating that I was looking for Bob of that name and added, *“If you know him, would you pass this letter to him for me?”* I mailed it out to those dozen addresses and wondered if I would ever hear anything back.

About two months later, the phone rang with a halting emotional voice at the other end. *“Rich,”* the voice said, *“you found me. I never thought anyone would ever want to.”* Since that time, we now talk every few months.

I learned that from God. God does that sort of thing — looks for us and finds us... like Nathanael under a fig tree; like Samuel, a little boy asleep; and like you as you live each day. God finds us.

God finds us...

Jesus decided which way to go... maybe he shut his eyes and spun around with his finger outstretched... opened his eyes and decided: *“that-away!”* He was finding disciples — sometimes they showed up on his doorstep like Andrew, sometimes they were brought by others like Peter, and other times like with Philip, when Jesus simply said, *“Hey you! C’mon along!”*

He moved north toward his home area of Galilee. Over time, the church has recognized that there is always something to do wherever we might happen to be, but the best place to start is at home and in the neighbourhood. How are you doing at home with all the stresses of life? It’s not easy. That’s why the grace and mercy of God are needed there. Just like you can always find your home, so does God.

God finds us. God comes. Sometimes we are found through the agency of another person. We see that in this story. How did the Good News of Jesus Christ first find

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you? Maybe someone told you, or discovered you with compassion, or brought you to the baptismal font.

... **there are connections...**

Jesus encountered Andrew – Andrew invited Peter ... and when Jesus found Philip, he went to Nathanael (who was from Cana). “*Come and see for yourself*” is all they say. Shortly thereafter, the disciples found themselves at a wedding in Cana. It’s funny how connections work, isn’t it? God’s Spirit moves in surprising ways.

I started ministry as a Mission Developer. One Sunday, Donna brought her daughter to Sunday School at the community hall we used for worship. They liked it. A few months later Donna had her daughter and her son baptized at our make-do church. One day, she was talking to a friend at work and Mary started coming. Soon she had her children baptized. That winter Mary and her husband were working at the Community League skating rink, chatting with another couple who also showed up at church. Later on that year I baptized the husband of that couple. This wasn’t some church program we were running... just a lot of “Come and see for yourself” was going on.

God gets our attention

Jesus got Nathanael’s attention by telling him that he knew he was a “*what you see is what you get*” sort of guy. That is, there was nothing false about him: no guile. Nathanael was intrigued. Does God really see us?... And know us?... And still want to bother with us?

In the first reading, little Samuel had a terrible time trying to figure out who was calling him. He discovered that the Lord knew his name! God knows us before we know him. Fatih is a journey in which we get to know the one who knew us first.

Martin Luther said, “*This life is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness; not health, but healing; not being, but becoming; not rest, but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it. The process is not yet finished, but it is going on. This life is not the end, but it is the road.*”¹

When God gets our attention, we may pause and think about life. We can even dare to confess our sins... because God receives us as we are. That’s the story of the cross. There is nothing about us that scares Jesus off. Most people do not im-

¹Defense and Explanation of all the Articles (1521), LW vol. 39.5

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mediately respond to the grace and mercy of God. Like Nathanael we can be skeptical to start with... and then, whether it is a moment or a lifetime later, things may change. I see this process in the faces of people at large funerals. Lots of people listening and wondering. Like Nathanael.

During his chat with Nathanael, Jesus touched on a story from the Bible²... which leaves us at a disadvantage if we don't know it. It tells of Jacob who fell asleep and dreamt of a ladder with angels descending and ascending. In that story Jacob awoke and said, "*The Lord is in this place and I didn't know it.*"

Nathanael is told that he would have a similar kind of epiphany experience with Jesus as the focal point. In essence, Jesus says, "*You will come to know God is here as we move along together.*"

An awareness of God's presence takes time. Jesus implies that Nathaniel was too easily impressed when he replied with his platitudes. For most of us, the experience with God develops slowly, forged in the fires of life.

I connected again with my friend in the states over Christmas. We told swapped stories about our kids, and remembered old experiences we had together with laughter. We talked about how God works in our lives, gives us to each other, and finds us.

God knows all about us and we are loved. We are called together with others, hope is offered freely, and we make our way through life with the one who always finds us.

Amen.

Hymn #798 Will you come and follow me

<https://youtu.be/pnXOEUS7BBM>

**Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love shown, will you let my name be known**

² Genesis 28:10-17

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Will you let my life be down in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract of scare?

Will you let me answer pray'r in you and you in me?

Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?

Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?

Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,

Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.

Thus I'll moved live and grow in you and you in me.

Prayers of intercession

With gratitude for the gift of Christ, let us draw near to God in prayer, asking mercy for the church the world and all seeking God's loving kindness.

Thank you for being so patient with us! Thank you for calling us to be your disciples and prophets, teachers and pastors, servants and saints and even fools for Christ. Help us individually, and as *Hope Lutheran*, to listen to the needs of our world, and find ways to share our love where it is needed most. Lord in your mercy, **Please hear our prayer.**

You called Samuel to be your prophet, and your Son called Philip and Nathaniel to be his disciples. We pray for *Hills of Peace Lutheran* in Kamloops and Pastor **Jane Gingrich**; and our *Global Mission Companion*: the *Evangelical Lutheran Church of Peru*. Fill the Church with your Holy Spirit, encouraging all those who serve in your name. Lord in your mercy, **Please hear our prayer.**

We pray for the well-being of creation, for plants and animals, and for all you have most marvelously made. Thank you for sunrises, sunsets, for clouds and rain and wind. Help us remember to serve as wise stewards of Earth, our home. Lord in your mercy, **Please hear our prayer.**

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We pray for our neighbour to the south. Grant the new president-elect **Biden** and vice president-elect **Harris** wisdom, grace and mercy to bring the many peoples of the *United States* closer together; right and left, white and black, native and settler. Lord in your mercy, **Please hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are allowing us to stay safe in this time of pandemic: medical personnel, care aides, those who work with seniors and people with special needs; the grocery store clerks and staff, pharmacy staff; police officers, firefighters, for military personnel and various levels of governments, that they provide protections to all people, especially the most vulnerable. We also ask you to bless those administering vaccines through the world. Lord in your mercy, **Please hear our prayer.**

For those lacking food or shelter, for those who are sick or grieving and for those who are imprisoned or housebound we pray your healing presence. Be with those who we name in our heart, and those who have requested our prayers, especially...

Bernie Hansen, Wendy Van Oldenburg, Deanna Boks, Dave Cash, Sue Dowty and family, Pearl Dunn, Tom Farkas, Barbara Foster, Diane Fredericks, Marg Fredericks, Uli Fritzsche, Rebecca Garber, Jean and Gerry Jacob, Liz Knight, Donna Kuffler, the family of Daniel Landingin+, Derick & Loraine Mather, Lori McWilliams, Andrew Mellis, Carole & Clyde Ortner, Amolina & Lorne Schwartz, Barbara Sheppard, Joan Spencer, Tania Strauss, Janice Vosper, Brian, Anne, Derek and family, Donavon, Donna, Elaine, Katja, Kira, Laila, Linley, Leah, Lone, Kari, Mervin, Michael & family, Payton, Serena, Sherry, Sigrid, Todd, Zack, Joan Burns, Fred Mason...

Fill them with health and hope; bless all who minister to them; and let the radiance of Jesus' love gladden their hearts. Lord in your mercy, **Please hear our prayer.**

Be with all who celebrate the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*. May we learn to focus on what we have in common, rather than the doctrines that divide us. Help us to spend time this coming week, praying for Christians throughout the world. Lord in your mercy,
Please hear our prayer.

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We thank you for the lives of your servants who followed you in this life and now abide in your presence. Lead us into your presence along side **Samuel, Nathaniel and Philip, Thomas Aquinas, and Martin Luther King, Jr.** May their lives give us a vision of the gospel in action, let us pray, **Please hear our prayer.**

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 Savior. **Amen.**

The Peace [*unmute*]

The peace of Christ is with you always!

And also with you!

*(We greet each other gently with a wave, a smile,
or some other gesture of peace)*

The Meal

The Lord is 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

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread (*raise the bread*), and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying:

Take and eat; this is my body given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup (*raise the cup*), and gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer song

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

Hallowed be your name, Hallelujah.

Your kingdom come, your will be done,

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**Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth
as in heaven, Hallelujah.**

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

**Give us today our daily bread, give us today our bread,
Give us our bread today, Hallelujah.**

**Forgive our sins as we forgive
Forgive our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us, Hallelujah.**

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

Save us from the time of trial, save us from the trial.

Deliver us from evil, Hallelujah.

For the kingdom and the power are yours,

**The kingdom and the power are yours,
the glory now and ever, Hallelujah.**

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah. Amen.

Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

(If you are with someone else, say these words as you offer communion...)

Bread: “Take and eat, this is the body of Christ, given for you.”

Cup: “Take and drink, this is the blood of Christ, shed for you.”

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn #677 (A “Wuppet” version)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NsbRIg-ebWg&feature=youtu.be>

(Verse 1)

This little light of mine, I’m goin’ a let it shine,

This little light of mine, I’m goin’ a let it shine,

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This little light of mine, I'm goin' a let it shine,
Everyday, everyday, everyday in every way
I'm goin' a let my little light shine

(Repeat verse 1)

(Repeat verse 1)

(Verse 2)

On a Monday, he gave me the gift of love
On a Tuesday, he is peace came from above
On a Wednesday, he told me just what to say
On a Thursday, he taught me just how to pray
On a Friday, he gave me a little more faith
On a Saturday, he gave me a lot more grace
On a Sunday, he gave me the power divine
To let my little light shine

(Repeat verse 1)

(Repeat verse 2)

(Repeat verse 1)

Go in peace, the Lord is with you.

Thanks be to God!



Worship Assistants Today

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Reader: Bill Fehr

Prayers: Audrey Strauss

Zoom Hosts: Sue Grant & Garth Wedemire,; Gerry Owen (Back up); John Musgrave, Glenn Harvey, Gail Smith (Co-hosts).

Readings for next Sunday

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20