

CAMBRIDGE STREET UNITED CHURCH

Lindsay, Ontario

10:30 a.m. - January 20, 2008

Order of Service

* (indicates where the congregation stands as able)

Theme (January – July): ***The People of God on a Transitional Journey***

Today's Theme: *As we move through Epiphany we experience a dawning awareness of the many ways in which God is revealed and understood. In today's readings we see how God calls prophets, even when they feel discouraged, and how God called Jesus and the first disciples. When the obstacles seem overwhelming, God is not daunted. God gives powerful gifts and then asks for a powerful response. We don't have to be a charismatic leader to share our love for Jesus Christ. Andrew wasn't flashy, but he managed to help others get in touch with God.*

Prelude: *Variations on "Purer in Heart"* - arr. George Brandon

Choral Introit: *"Come to Worship"* - Robert Leaf

Words of Welcome

* Opening Hymn: **#264 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"**

Call to Worship:

Leader: *Because of love for the world, the Lamb of God poured out his life.*

People: ***Because of love for God and the lamb who was slain, we gather here to give thanks, and to commit ourselves to honouring Jesus as we love and serve the needy and the broken in the world in his name.***

Leader: *Let us offer unto God our sacrifice of worship.*

Opening Prayer: (All)

Self-revealing, self-giving God, we come amazed at the depth of your love, the extent of your concern for us and for the world. Sometimes we think we cannot praise you enough. All is well and we know that we are blessed. Other times, God, we feel no praise. We are depressed and feeling hopeless about life.

Oh, that we could eliminate these ups and downs in life and be ready to praise you every day, no matter what the circumstances might be. It's awesome to know that you can minister to our individual needs. We don't understand how this is possible, but we believe it is within your almighty power.

Thank you, God, for your presence, for your caring, for your love, for your concern, and for your healing power. In this hour of worship, free us from all that would keep us distant from you, and have your way among us. Show us your salvation yet again that we may continue to worship you with thanks and praise.

Amen.

* Song of Glory (congregational response in CAPS)

*This is the day, **THIS IS THE DAY**
That the Lord has made, **THAT THE LORD HAS MADE.**
We will rejoice, **WE WILL REJOICE**
And be glad in it, **AND BE GLAD IN IT.**
This is the day that the Lord has made,
WE WILL REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT.
This is the day, **THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE***

Time with the Children (children come forward)

Children leave for Sunday School classes

Covenant of Ministry

A church family is constantly changing. Loved ones come to the end of their lives. Individuals come and go in our church life. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share this time of welcome with Rev. B. W. Fillier (Bobby) whose time as our temporary minister/transitional specialist begins.

Leader: *Bobby, in the presence of this congregation, will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, and promise to discharge your duties in harmony with the constitutions of The United Church of Canada and Cambridge Congregation?*

Bobby: *I will, and I ask God to help me.*

Leader: *Will you love, serve and pray for our people of God, nourishing them with the Word, Holy Sacrament and Pastoral Care and lead them forward during this important time of change?*

Bobby: *I will, and I ask God to help me.*

Leader: *Will you lead our people of God and our church staff in giving faithful witness to the word and making known the love of God through loving service among themselves and in our larger community?*

Bobby: *I will, and I ask God to help me.*

Leader: *May Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, give you the power of the Spirit so that you may perform them with strength and compassion.*

Congregation: Amen.

Leader: *I ask all of you, now, people of this congregation, and staff; Pam, Garth Erwin, Walter, Joan and Suzanne, will you receive this messenger of Christ, Bobby who continues the work of bringing the Gospel of hope and salvation? Will you regard him as a fellow servant of Christ and work with him in the ministry of our congregation?*

Congregation and Staff: We will.

Leader: *Will you pray for him and honour him for his work's sake and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?*

Congregation and Staff: We will.

Leader: *By your statements of commitment and the affirmation of this congregation, we welcome you as temporary minister/ transitional specialist of this congregation in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Scripture Readings

1st Testament Isaiah 49:1-7 (page 629 RSV)

Here Isaiah dislikes how God's servant can be discouraged. The servant has skills and talents that are truly God-given, and has worked to the point of exhaustion but nothing useful seems to have come from it. Then God steps in and calls the servant to a new awareness - that God's servants are called to be witnesses to the whole world. We can't forget that the ultimate purpose is to share that love with everyone.

2nd Testament John 1:29-42 (page 922-3 RSV)

Here we have the Gospel of John's version of the baptism of Jesus, followed by the call of the first disciples. John's understanding of Jesus evolved over time, during a period of great conflict between the writer's community and religious leaders of his day. Similarly, our own awareness of who Jesus is for today is also evolving. It is constantly shaped and challenged by our own experiences and relationship with God. In this week of Christian Unity, whatever the image - John's, our own or that of someone else - each is but a fresh glimpse of the identity of the Christ we are all striving to follow.

* Hymn: **#508 "Just As I Am"**

Sermon: **"Look ... Listen and Learn"**

* Hymn: **#378 "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"**

The Offering of our Gifts and Ourselves

Offertory: *"New Every Morning" (#405) - Healey Willan*

* Offering Doxology (*tune Lasst Uns Erfreuen*)

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Offertory Prayer (All):

As followers of Jesus, we choose to pour out, not just our money, but our love, our advocacy, our active engagement while the needs of the impoverished in body, soul or spirit. May they come to know the healing and wholeness of your shalom. Bless and use these gifts, we pray. Amen.

Prayers for Ourselves and Others

Jesus' Prayer (A paraphrase by Jim Cotter, 1988) - in unison

***Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all.
Loving God, in whom is heaven:***

***The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.***

***With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.
Amen.***

* Hymn: #326 "O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing"

The Blessing

The blessing of God, who has given to us in our need, and who empowers us in our giving to others, is upon us and remains with us evermore.

Commissioning (composed by Don Besig & Nancy Price)

Go now in peace. Never be afraid...

Postlude: *Prelude and Fugue in G major* - J.S. Bach

Worship Theme Summary

During this week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we remember the work of Martin Luther King Jr., and the struggle against racism. King knew that God was calling people to a new awareness of how we should relate to one another. He knew how following Jesus' path of the Spirit could change everything. King worked with passion and faithfulness, we are called to do no less.