



Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

January 28, 2024, 10:30am

Gathering in the FBCH Sanctuary

Prayer candles are available in the north transept if you would like to light one as part of your prayer this morning. For more information about the life of FBCH, visit our website: fbchalifax.ca or like us on social media.

Wifi Password for FBCH Guest: youareloved

Prelude

Lynette Wahlstrom, Organ

Nimrod fr. Enigma Variations -E. Elgar

Ringling of the Trinity

Welcome

Paula Zanella Antunes

If joining on Facebook Live or YouTube we invite you to say hello to everyone by posting a comment to the live stream.

Call to Worship

Arla Johnson

Adapted from prayer by Thom Shuman

With friends and strangers, with family and neighbours, we gather:

Come among us, Caring God, with that love which never ends.

With faith reaching out to touch, with hearts straining to trust, we hope:

Come among us, Friend of the broken, with your compassion which makes us whole.

With word and wonder, with silence and song, we wait:

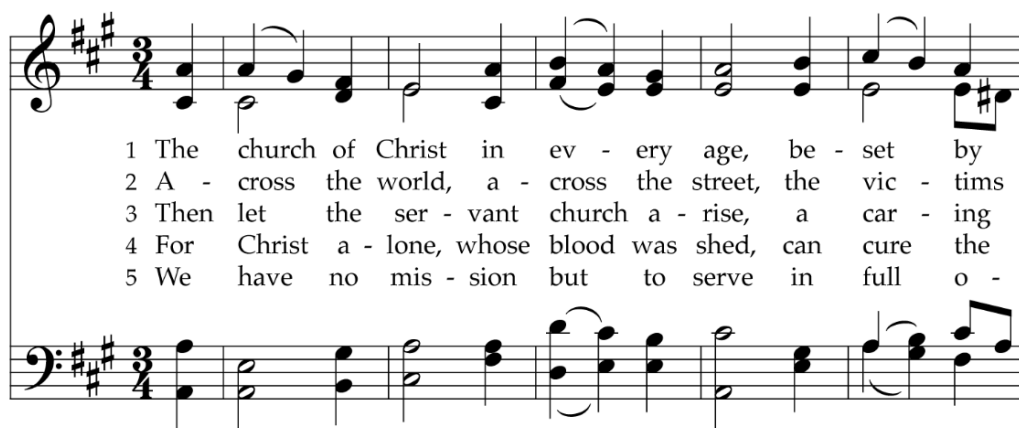
Come among us, Life bearer, lift us to our feet to follow you.

Prayer of Approach

All loving God, in Jesus Christ you show us the depth of your love. You listen to our cries and hear our laments. You see the fear in our eyes and know the secrets of our hearts. You do not turn from our distress, but stretch out your hand to comfort. Thanks and praise be to you, O God; your steadfast love endures forever. Amen.

*Processional Hymn (next page)

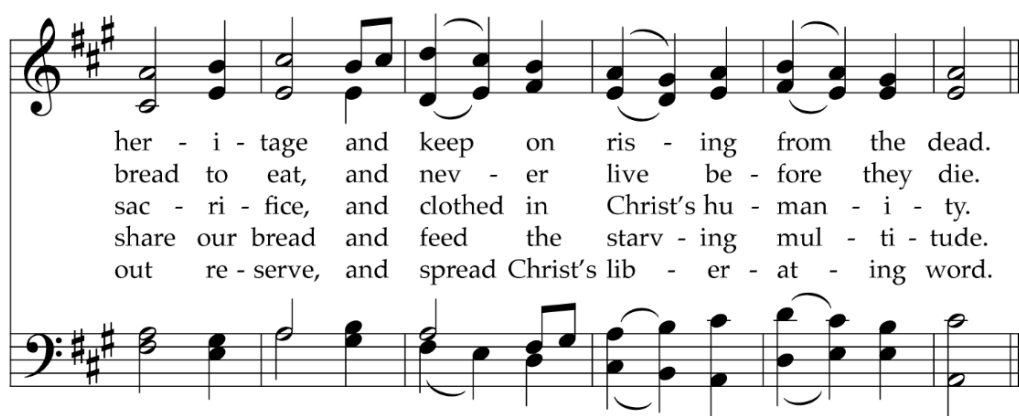
320 The Church of Christ in Every Age



1 The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be - set by
 2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
 3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
 4 For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
 5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
 of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
 church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
 fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
 be - dience to our Lord: to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
 bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
 out re - serve, and spread Christ's lib - er - at - ing word.

In this challenging text by a British Methodist minister, the odd-numbered stanzas develop the image of "the servant church," while the second surveys the many needs and the fourth describes the true source of strength for the task.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Psalm Reading: Psalm 131

Arla Johnson

The Inclusive Bible

Hal H. Hopson

Refrain



© 1988 Hope Publishing Company

O LORD, my heart has no lofty ambitions, my eyes do not look too high. I am not concerned with great affairs or marvels beyond my scope.

It is enough for me to keep my soul tranquil and quiet like a child in its mother's arms; my soul is content as a nursing child.
People of God, rely on the LORD like a child, now and forever! **R**

Children's Hymn

God Welcomes All 399

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

This "short song," as the Iona Community calls it, can be especially effective as a means of setting a welcoming tone for a service (especially an ecumenical one). Like most such songs, it needs to be sung several times, adding and improvising harmony with each repetition.

TEXT: John L. Bell, 2008

MUSIC: South African song; transcr. John L. Bell, 2008

Text and Music Transcr. © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

THEMBA AMEN

4.4.9

***Blessing of the Children**

Beloved children of our church family: may God's Spirit be with you as you enter into the stories of our faith; may your imaginations be opened to encounter God's love for you and all the world; and may you be formed to care for others as you discover the Way of Jesus. Amen.

*Children going into Primary-Grade 6 are invited to go to Godly Play.
Today's Godly Play story: Parable of the Sower*

***Doxology - OLD HUNDREDTH**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ, all people here below, Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.

Donations

All contributions to FBCH support our mission and ministry and are greatly appreciated. Offering boxes are located at the side doors at the back of the Sanctuary. You can also go to our website fbchalifax.ca and click on the Ways to Give link for information about how to financially support the ministries of FBCH, including e-transfers or setting up recurring donations.

Gospel Reading: Mark 5:21-43

New Revised Standard Version

^{5:21}When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered round him; and he was by the lake. ²²Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet ²³and begged him repeatedly, 'My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.' ²⁴So he went with him...

³⁵While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, 'Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?' ³⁶But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, 'Do not fear, only believe.' ³⁷He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. ³⁸When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹When he had entered, he said to them, 'Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.' ⁴⁰And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹He took her by the hand and said to her, 'Talitha cum',

which means, 'Little girl, get up!' ⁴²And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. ⁴³He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Reader For the Word of God in Scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Spoken Reflection

Rusty Edwards

Get Up

Anthem

Sr. Choir

Like a Child -Hatfield

Prayers of the People

Arla Johnson

Lord's Prayer

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and
ever. Amen.**

***Recessional Hymn (next page)**

649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

CHOCTAW

*Shilombish holitopa ma!
 Ishmminti pulla cha
 hatak ilbusha pia ha
 is yikpalashke.*

CREEK

*Po ya fek cha he thlat ah tet
 ah non ah cha pa kas
 cha fee kee o funnan la kus
 um e ha ta la yus.*

NAVAHO

*Nizhónígo joobá diits' a'
 yisdáshítínigí,
 lah yóóiyá, k'ad
 shénáhoosdzin,
 doo eesh'íy da ní't'éé.*

As was his custom, the author wrote this hymn to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16–17, preached on January 1, 1773; he called it "Faith's Review and Expectation." Much of its current popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, an association that began in 1835.

TEXT: Stanzas 1–4, John Newton, 1772; stanza 5, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790; Navaho, Albert Tsosie
 MUSIC: *Columbian Harmony*, 1829; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1910, alt.

Text Phonetic Transcr. Cherokee, Kiowa, Creek, and Choctaw © Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference;
 Phonetic Transcr. Navaho © Albert Tsosie

AMAZING GRACE
 CM

Benediction

Rusty Edwards

Amen

Postlude

Lynette Wahlstrom, Organ

Rondeau fr. Abdelazer -H. Purcell



The Week Ahead at FBCH

For details go to fbchalifax.ca or read News Notes

Sunday, January 28

10:30am - Sunday Worship; Sanctuary

Thursdays

7-9 pm - Senior Choir; Sanctuary

Sunday, February 4

10:30am - Sunday Worship; Sanctuary

1:00pm - Youth Group

3:00pm - Deliver Casseroles for ARK Sunday Supper

Truth & Reconciliation

Each Sunday, we list one of the Calls to Action issued by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. These Calls to Action remind us of Jesus' calling to love God and love our neighbours. May they guide us to put loving justice into action.

Legacy: Health

18. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health in Canada is a direct result of previous Canadian government policies, including residential schools, and to recognize and implement the health-care rights of Aboriginal people as identified in international law, constitutional law, and under the Treaties.



Thank you to our worship leaders

Arla Johnson, Minister of Inclusive Community

Jean Ferguson, Coordinator of Congregational and Community Engagement

Lynette Wahlstrom, Director of Music

Katie Pezzutto, Lead Godly Play Storyteller

Paula Zanello Antunes, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Coordinator

Rusty Edwards, Senior Minister

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

HALIFAX

Breaking Stereotypes Since 1827

The story of the early church in the New Testament is a story of the ever-expanding circle of those included in the community of Jesus. We believe that circle expands to include all people.

Because we are followers of Jesus, First Baptist Church Halifax welcomes all people into the full life of the church community. This means we will not discriminate on the grounds of gender, age, race, national or ethnic origin, colour, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or economic circumstances.

We really do want you to join us. Our diversity helps us all expand our understandings of God.

Learn more about First Baptist Church Halifax at www.fbchalifax.ca or find us on FaceBook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter.