

**January 31, 2021 • Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SONG**

*The Lion and the Lamb*

**CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Merciful God, you look with compassion on your children when we suffer. At times we suffer for reasons we cannot control and we do not understand, yet we confess that much of the pain in this world is the result of our sinfulness. We chase after idols of wealth and power, popularity and self-righteousness, placing our trust in their empty promises rather than your promise of abundant life. Forgive us for the times we have walked away from you.

Forgive us for the times we have ignored the pleas of the poor and needy.

Free us from what we've allowed to bind us.

Liberate us by the light of your love, that we might become faithful once again.

People of God, know this. By simply speaking a word, Jesus creates a new heart in you. By his word you are forgiven, by his word you are freed, by his word you are created anew.

Walk joyfully in this new beginning, trusting in our Lord Jesus Christ, and sharing this redeeming love with everyone you meet.

**Amen.**

**SONG**

***Our God***

**PRAYER**

Holy God, there truly is no one like you, higher than the heavens, almighty and powerful, yet close enough to hold us, to heal us, to walk with us through our darkest nights. Lord, we need you here, in our hearts today. As we walk through this season of struggle, of loneliness, of sickness, bring hope. Bring strength. Bring life. In the great and mighty name of Jesus we pray.

**Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**Gary Kallansrud**

### A READING FROM DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20

[Moses said:] <sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>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.” <sup>17</sup>Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>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.”

### A READING FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him.

<sup>4</sup>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.” <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>“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. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>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.

## A READING FROM MARK 1:21-28

<sup>21</sup>[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>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.” <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>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.” <sup>28</sup>At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

SERMON

Pastor Josh Brecht

SONG

*Stand in Your Love*

## A NEW CREED – UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

## **PRAYERS**

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

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.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

*God IS our peace. Receive that peace and share peace with one another.*

## **OFFERING**

*Offerings can be made online or mailed to the church office. Thank you for your continuing support to our ministry during this time.*

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, 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,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

God the creator strengthen you;  
Jesus the beloved fill you;  
and the Holy Spirit the comforter  $\pm$  keep you in peace.  
**Amen.**

## **SENDING**

*Great Things*

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Vocal Leaders:** Worship Band

**Musicians:** Gail Brecht, Jimmie Miller, Amy Kallansrud, Jason Fulbright, Jim McCommis, Christian Saia

**Reader:** Jan Thompson

**AV:** Andrew Leach

**CCLI License # 687587**

### ***The Lion and The Lamb***

- © 2015 Meaux Mercy
- Thankyou Music
- The Devil Is A Liar! Publishing
- Bethel Music Publishing

### ***Our God***

*Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman, Jesse Reeves, and Chris Tomlin*

- © 2010 Atlas Mountain Songs
- Sixsteps Music
- Thank You Music
- Vamos Publishing
- Worshiptogether.com songs

### ***Stand in Your Love***

- © 2018 Capitol CMG Paragon
- Be Essential Songs
- EGH Music Publishing
- Coastal Lyric
- Gateway Create Publishing
- Gateway Worship Publishing
- Bethel Music Publishing

### ***Great Things***

- © 2018 Capitol CMG Paragon
- Son of the Lion
- Phil Wickham Music
- Simply Global Songs
- Sing My Songs

