

# St. John the Divine Anglican Church



Sunday January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
The Third Sunday after the Epiphany  
Service of the Word

We gather on the unceded territory of the Squamish Nation

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Diocese of New Westminster  
ANGELICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

*Take a deep breath.  
And again.*

### ***The Gathering of the Community***

Leader The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all

**All: And also with you.**

Leader Let us pray.

**All We thank you, O God, that you have again brought us together on the Lord's  
Day to praise you for your goodness and to ask your blessing.  
Give us grace to see your hand in the week that is past,  
and your purpose in the week to come; through Christ our Lord. Amen**

Leader Dear friends in Christ,  
as we turn our hearts and minds  
to worship almighty God,  
let us confess our sins.

**All Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us,  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Leader Merciful God, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace,  
that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Leader May the Peace of God be with you.

**All And also with you.**

O praise ye the Lord! Give praise in the height;  
Rejoice in God's Word, ye angels of light;  
Ye heavens, adore Him by whom ye were made,  
And worship before Him in brightness arrayed.

O praise ye the Lord! Give praise upon earth,  
In tuneful accord, give thanks for new birth;  
Praise God who hath brought you all grace from above,  
Praise God who hath taught you the pathways of love.

O praise ye the Lord! All things that give sound;  
Each jubilant chord re-echo around;  
Loud organs, God's glory proclaim in deep tone,  
And sweet harp, the story of what God hath done.

O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song  
Be ever outpoured all ages along!  
For love in creation, for Heaven restored,  
For grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord!

*Henry Williams Baker  
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**The Collect of the Day**

Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009) alt.

Lord Jesus Christ, with those you called by the lakeside, may we follow you, proclaiming the reign of God, and sharing your mission to bring good news to all; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**The Proclamation of the Word**

**First Reading:** Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh

was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

#### Psalm 62:6-14

For God alone my soul in silence waits;

**truly, my hope is in him.**

He alone is my rock and my salvation,

**my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.**

In God is my safety and my honour;

**God is my strong rock and my refuge.**

Put your trust in him always, O people,

**pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge.**

Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath,

**even those of low estate cannot be trusted.**

On the scales they are lighter than a breath,

**all of them together.**

Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;

**though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,

**that power belongs to God.**

Steadfast love is yours, O Lord,

**for you repay everyone according to his deeds.**

#### Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

**Gospel: Mark 1:14-20**

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea - for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

**Sermon**

**The Apostle's Creed**

Leader        Let us confess our faith as we say,

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin  
Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again  
to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

**The Prayers of the People**

**Offertory Hymn: Will You Come and Follow Me**

CP #430



1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?  
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?  
3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?  
4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be  
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be  
Will you set the pris - 'ners free and nev - er be  
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be  
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be



the same? Will you let my love be shown,  
the same? Will you risk the hos - tile stare  
the same? Will you kiss the lep - er clean,  
the same? Will you use the faith you've found  
the same. In your com - pa - ny I'll go



will you let my name be known, will you let my  
should your life at - tract or scare? Will you let me  
and do such as this un - seen, and ad - mit to  
to re - shape the world a - round, through my sight and  
where your love and foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and



life be grown in you and you in me?  
an - swer prayer in you and you in me?  
what I mean in you and you in me?  
touch and sound in you and you in me?  
live and grow in you and you in me.

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[squamishanglicanchurch.ca/pages/donatetostjohn-the-divine-squamish](http://squamishanglicanchurch.ca/pages/donatetostjohn-the-divine-squamish)

Leader  
**All** Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,  
**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

Leader  
**All** Glory to God  
**whose power, working in us,  
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.  
Glory to God from generation to generation,  
in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen**

Leader  
**All** May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

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**St. John the Divine Prayers for January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**The Church**

St. Agnes, North Vancouver - The Venerable Stephen Muir, The Reverend Lizz Lindsay

St. Paul, Vancouver, and St. Paul's Advocacy Office - The Reverend Philip Cochrane

St. Titus, Oakridge -The Reverend Marion Wong

St. Timothy, Brentwood - The Reverend James Duckett

St. John the Divine, Squamish – The Reverend Cameron Gutjahr

### Immediate Prayer Requests

Clive, Nina, Bev, Ed, Rob, Jessica, Susan, Eleanor, Lori, The Howe Sound Women's Centre, the residents of Hilltop House, the residents of Shannon Falls and the patients of Squamish General Hospital.

In this time of COVID-19, we pray for all who are sick, for all who are grieving, for health care professionals, researchers and emergency personnel.

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### Rector's Reflection

In this week's reflection on the Apostles' Creed, we get into the first half of the middle part. Let us begin by noticing something about it: this part is by far the longest (hence me breaking it into two). I wonder why this is. Is it because the 2<sup>nd</sup> person of the Trinity is the most important? That doesn't quite resonate with me. I wonder if it is rather because in Jesus the mysterious and transcendent God is in some way the most knowable and accessible to our understanding.

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord.*

I believe in Jesus, I trust him, I love him, the Son of God, my Lord – two of the numerous names that I and countless others have used for Jesus. Some of the other names that have been used for him include Saviour, Word, Teacher, Mother, Healer, Friend, Guide, Redeemer, Criminal, King, Servant, Troublemaker, Lamb, High Priest... the list goes on. I wonder what names you use for Jesus.

*He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.*

The Church has long taught that Jesus is mysteriously fully God and fully human. There has been a lot of disagreement over that claim, or what it means exactly over the years (and to this day), but I don't want to get into that very much here. For me, it is a healthy and helpful paradox of my faith. Also, just a note, I love



that Mary is named (one of only two people, besides Jesus, mentioned by name in the Creed). I love Mary – she matters; she is mighty; she is the model for a Christ-bearing life.

*He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.*

The only other person mentioned by name in the Creed is Pontius Pilate, strange decision, don't you think? Also, why do we skip from the beginning of Jesus' life to the end? Well, just because his actions and teachings are not mentioned in the Creed explicitly does not mean that they do not matter. In fact, it was his teachings and actions that led him to be tortured and executed by an oppressive, imperial government – something that is important to name and remember. In remembering this part of Jesus' experience, I see the humble, self-giving nature of God – a God whose desire for loving solidarity with humanity led to him to walk alongside us right to death, even death on a cross.

*He descended to the dead.*

In an older version of the Apostles' Creed, it says that he descended "into hell." Is there anywhere that God's love would not go? No. That's what I hear in this, that God's love, mercy and goodness have been everywhere, even to those places and situations that we think must be absent of God. In truth, there is no thing and no place that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

That seems like enough for today. Tune in next week for part four of a reflection on the Apostles' Creed!

Thank you, and thanks be to God!

CG+

