
Chilliwack United Church
Second Sunday of Epiphany
10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Story 1 Samuel 3:1-10,(11-20)

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 fulfil 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 for ever, 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 for ever.'

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.

This is a story of our faith.

Thanks be to God.

Welcome & Greeting

Gathering Song

No. 87 VU

“I Am the Light of the World”

'I am the light of the world!

You people come and follow me!'

If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds have found
their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun:

'I am the light of the world!

You people come and follow me!'

If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.

Call to Worship

Prayer of Approach (In Unison)

God, please soften our hearts and our defensiveness, so that when you call to us we can hear you. Help us to remove the clutter in our lives and minds and hearts, so that we can find the spaciousness we need to unwind and be open to your grace. Help us to recognize you or send us mentors who will help us to discern when you are speaking to us. We long to hear your voice and know your call and direction. Amen.

Hymn No. 374 VU “Come and Find the Quiet Centre”

Prayer of Confession (In Unison)

Forgive us God, when we are so distracted by many things that we fail to see your grace right in front of us. Forgive us when our hearts are hardened and our minds anxious and we are not open and flexible enough to respond to your call. Forgive us when we can't say no, and end up doing things for which we are not equipped or designed, and which do not bring us joy. Help us to disentangle ourselves so that we can hear and respond to your call...

*Silent Prayer (time to sit in God's
Loving and Forgiving presence)*

Assurance of Pardon

Anthem “Just a Closer Walk With Thee”

Theme Conversation

Hymn No. 161 MV “I Have Called You by Your Name”
(Verse 1 – Seated)

Responsive Psalm No. 139

Page 861 VU

Gospel Reading

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.’

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Reflection

Hymn No. 371 VU

“Open My Eyes”

Life & Work of the Church

Presentation of Our Offering

Offertory Hymn No. 581 VU “When We Are Living”
(Verse 2 – Sung Once)

Through all our living, we our fruits must give.
Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving,
we belong to God, we belong to God.

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn No. 102 MV “Jesus, Your Spirit In Us”
Jesus, your Spirit in us
is a wellspring of life everlasting.

Hymn No. 626 VU “I Heard the Voice of Jesus”

Commissioning & Blessing

Sung Blessing No. 649 VU

- Sing Twice -

(You are invited to join hands with those around you to form a “blessings circle”)

Walk with me, I will walk with you
and build the land that God has planned
where love shines through.

Postlude

*The church has a supply of **hearing units** for improved sound in the sanctuary. If you wish to use a set for the Sunday service, please pick one up from the sound booth at the back of the sanctuary.*

Announcements

Leading the Service Today:

Clergy; Rev. Bethan Theunissen

Musician; Lynda Mundstock

Music Director; Marilyn Taves

Scripture Reader; Bert Hillmer

<h3>Lectionary Readings for December 21, 2017</h3>
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Jonah 3:1-5,10 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Psalm 62:5-12 Mark 1:14-20

Budget Summary

Average Weekly Revenue Required to Service our 2017 Operating Budget	\$ 3,559.00
Average Weekly Revenue to December 31, 2017	3,515.00
<i>Deficit as of December 31, 2017</i>	<i>3,148.00</i>
<i>Deficit as of December 31, 2016</i>	<i>(8,930.00)</i>

Average Mission & Service Weekly Revenue Required to Service our 2017 Objective	\$ 221.00
Average Mission & Service Weekly Revenue Received to December 31, 2017	208.00
<i>Mission & Service Funds Received to Date – December 31, 2017</i>	<i>9,946.00</i>
<i>Mission & Service Funds Received to Date – December 31, 2016</i>	<i>12,718.00</i>

*For your information, complete regular Monthly Financial Statements
are posted in the Narthex on the bulletin board next to the ramp.*

A very sincere thank you to our United Church Women for their very generous financial gift to the church in December. Your hard work and support is always very much appreciated.

Heather Anderson is celebrating her birthday this week. If you would like to send her birthday greetings, you can mail a card to her at 9620 Woodbine St., Chilliwack, V2P 5T2.

The church's copy of the key to our workshop has disappeared from the storage cupboard. We would be very grateful if the key could find its way back to its home in the storage cupboard.

Income Tax Receipts are prepared and ready to be picked up. If you made a contribution in 2017 to Chilliwack United Church through offering envelopes, a receipt has been prepared for you. Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of your receipt. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the church office at 604-792-4634.

We are collecting toques, mitts, scarves, men's and women's underwear toiletries and dental hygiene products. These items will be distributed at the Saturday Manna Soup Kitchen on January 20, 2018.

Join us for Lunch today following our morning worship service. Soup is being served as well as pot luck sandwiches.

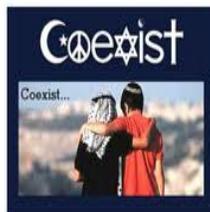
A Spring Cleanup Day has been planned for Monday, January 15. We invite anyone who has time to come down to the church between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to help sort through storage rooms and clean the building. A light lunch will be provided.

Offering envelopes for 2018 have been prepared and are ready to be picked up. If you made a donation through offering envelopes in 2017, a new set has been prepared for you. If you do not have a set of envelopes, but would like one for 2018, contact the church office at 604-792-4634 and a set will gladly be prepared.

It's time to start planning for the 2017 Annual Report. If you chaired a Ministry Unit or Committee in 2017, we kindly ask that you submit a report outlining the activities and work of your group. Deadline for submission of reports is Monday, February 5 at 1:00 p.m.

Building Unity in Diversity – In Honour of World Religion Day; Sunday, January 21 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Chilliwack Public Library. The Baha'i Community of Chilliwack invites you to an open, public gathering of multi-faith readings and prayers in a devotional atmosphere followed by time to explore the

Thought for the week



relationship between various religions with members from different faith communities in Chilliwack. This event is in honour of World Religion Day, which was described by Baha'i Canada as "designated to recognize the common elements in all religions and to foster interfaith connections in the various communities. Its message is that humankind is one and that the advancement of our civilization depends on the unity and harmony of peoples of the world." After the formal program, there will be lots of time to enjoy refreshments with new found friends.

The BC government wants to develop and implement a poverty reduction plan. Community meetings to receive input on this issue from British Columbians are held throughout BC, with March 29 as the date for Chilliwack. The location will be posted online closer to the date <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/bcpovertyreduction/community-meetings/> If you are interested but cannot make it to the community meeting, it is possible to post online.

We continue to collect non-perishable food items for the Salvation Army Food Bank. The need in our community continues long after Christmas. Your donation can be placed in the Salvation Army Barrel located in the Narthex.

Donations of cancelled postage stamps is greatly appreciated. The stamps are passed on to the Ruth Rebecca Lodge. Stamps are used to help purchase dressings for cancer patients.

Imagine: A Children's Retreat – Children ages 8 to 11 are invited to Stillwood Camp & Conference Centre at Cultus Lake for a weekend of fun and friends; February 16 to 18, 2018. Registration is online at www.imaginechildrenretreat.ca For more information, email marlynichol@gmail.com

Telecare Crisis & Caring Line is having a training information evening on Thursday, January 18, 7pm at New Life Christian Reformed Church, 35270 Delair Road, Abbotsford. Come and hear how you can become involved in responding to people who are lonely, feeling down or in emotional distress. This Christian based service provides listening, crisis intervention and referrals and is available to callers from the Chilliwack area through a toll free number. www.telecarebc.com

Chilliwack United Church

Monday, January 15 to Sunday, January 21

Monday, January 15

9:00 Spring Cleaning Day

Tuesday, January 16

9:00 Centering Prayer

1:00 Thrift Shop Open

7:30 Choir Practice

Wednesday, January 17

Rev. Bethan in the office

10:00 Thrift Shop Open

10:30 Drop In Bible Study

Thursday, January 18

Rev. Bethan in the office

10:00 Thrift Shop Open

1:30 Birchwood Service

3:00 Waverly Service

Friday, January 19

10:00 Thrift Shop Open

Saturday, January 20

12:00 Chilliwack United Soup Kitchen

1:00 Thrift Shop Open

Sunday, January 21

10:30 All Ages Worship Service (*Carolyn Gaunt leading Worship*)

Chilliwack United Church

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Minute for Mission
Family Resources Close to Home

Our gifts for Mission & Service support community ministries for families, like this ministry in Nova Scotia. In 1986, Fairview United Church in Halifax opened a family resource centre in its building. The programs the church initiated focused on providing education and support in a safe and welcoming environment.

Let's hear from one long-time participant, now board member Tia Forsythe, about the centre's lasting impact:

"I first heard of Parent 'n' Tot (as it was called then) when we first moved here in 2006. While my husband went to work every day, it was hard for me and my three children to make connections.... I was told there was a great playgroup, so off we went.

"It is a decision I am thankful for every day. My children made friends that they still are connected to over 10 years later. I met people who became my support system in the city.... I have been privileged to watch not only my children grow and achieve amazing things, but also the children they met all those years ago.

"The Family Resource Centre has had to move out of the church to a new, larger building. Programs and services offered today include advocacy and referrals, health and wellness, youth, preschool, adult skill development, health and safety, pre-kindergarten, parenting skills and support, and community partnerships.

"I want to say a big thank you to Fairview United Church and also to the people of The United Church of Canada. Through your generous gifts to Mission & Service, you are making a true and lasting impact on communities and in the world, in Jesus' name."

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

(M&S Minute for Mission - Pg 2)