

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

First Lutheran Church, Lynn, MA

January 17, 2021



All the baptized have a calling in God's world.

God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel.

The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place.

Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth.

But where we come from isn't important;

it's where—or rather whom—we come to.

Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called “the house of God,

and... the gate of heaven” (Gen. 28:17).

Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

Welcome to worship!

Yes, *this is worship!* It is not the way any of us *want* it to be, but God is alive and present in this virtual gathering. God's work will still speak to us through the Holy Spirit, and we are still the Body of Christ, joined together in a fellowship of love, even if it is not in person.

Create a sacred space in your home.

Light a candle. Pour yourself a warm beverage. Welcome the presence of God into your dwelling. Set aside this time for worship as if you were in church. Put away the cell phone (unless you are watching on your cell phone!) Adopt a posture of prayer that works for you.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We begin our worship by freeing ourselves from the baggage we have carried around this week.

It is liberating to admit that we are not perfect people, and to know that we have a God who loves and accepts us unconditionally.

Partita
Hugo Distler

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God,
whose voice is upon the waters,
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,
whose goodness cascades over all creation.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
you search us and know us.
You are acquainted with all our ways.
We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.
We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love.
We distrust those who are not like us.
We exploit the earth and its resources
and fail to consider generations to come.
Forgive us, gracious God,
for all we have done and left undone.
Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them;
receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

The minister announces God's forgiveness, to which the assembly responds:
Amen.

This Little Light of Mine



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.



God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching, and song

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 3:1-20

At a time when visions are rare and unexpected, the Lord comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word. Though just a boy, Samuel responds to God obediently, as Eli the priest has taught him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel's prophetic ministry.

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.

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 fulfill 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 forever, 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 forever."

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 139

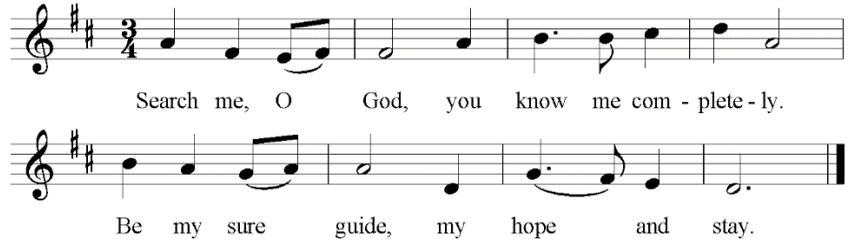
The psalms were the original prayer book of God's people and capture the full gamut of human emotion.

The cantors sing the refrain, which is repeated by the assembly. The cantors sing the verses.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Paul helps the Corinthians understand that God has claimed the entirety of their lives through the death of Christ. Hence Christian relationships and conduct, including areas of human sexuality, are to reflect the reality that we belong to Christ and that the Holy Spirit lives within us.



1. You, O Lord, have searched and known me, when I rest, and when I rise;
Not a single thought I cherish is kept secret from your eyes.
Ev'ry word my lips would murmur needs no speech to make it known.
All I do in ev'ry venture is as done to you alone.
2. Wither shall I flee your Spirit? From your presence, vanish where?
Heights of heaven, darkest shadows hide me not, for you are there.
If I take the wings of morning, and in earth's far corner stand;
Even there your love will find me, hold me fast within your hand.
3. In the brilliance of your glory, darkest night is bright as day;
Shadows flee the path before me, when your wisdom lights my way.
You that knit my parts together, knew my life before my birth,
Sees my faults, yet trusts my promise far beyond my feeble worth.

All things are lawful for me, but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We stand to welcome Christ, the living word of God, in the gospel reading.

GOSPEL

John 1:43-51

In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON



Verse: Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.
Speak your words of wisdom,
for the words you speak are everlasting life.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

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 toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Here I Am, Lord

We stand to proclaim
the word of God in
song.



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

APOSTLES CREED

The word "creed" comes from the Latin credo which simply means "I believe."

By professing our faith with these ecumenical words, we are one with Christians all around the world, no matter what else might divide us.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole church let us confess our faith:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

After each petition:

O God, _____, hear our cries;
In mercy, receive our prayers.

As we pray, we sing this refrain:

Ky-ri - e e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.

The first line of musical notation is in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of a treble clef staff with a melody and a bass clef staff with a harmonic accompaniment. The melody starts on a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4 and Bb4, then a quarter rest, and continues with quarter notes C5, Bb4, A4, and G4. The accompaniment consists of chords: G3-Bb3, G3-Bb3, G3-Bb3, G3-Bb3, G3-Bb3, G3-Bb3, G3-Bb3, and G3-Bb3.

Ky-ri - e e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son.

The second line of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. The melody starts on a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4 and Bb4, then a quarter rest, and continues with quarter notes C5, Bb4, A4, and G4. The accompaniment consists of chords: G3-Bb3, G3-Bb3, G3-Bb3, G3-Bb3, G3-Bb3, G3-Bb3, G3-Bb3, and G3-Bb3.

Kyrie eleison = Lord, have mercy

OFFERTORY

*You are invited to
make your offering
online at
www.flc-lynn.org/give
or by mail. Please
continue to give during
this time to support the
ongoing ministry of our
congregation.*

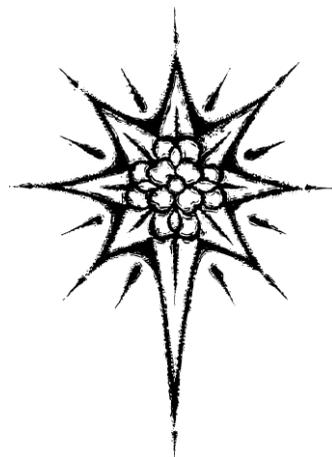
Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life
Hal Hopson

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life;
Such a way as gives us breath,
Such a truth as ends all strife,
Such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a light as shows a feast,
Such a feast as mends in length,
Such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a joy as none can move,
Such a love as none can part,
Such a heart as joys in love.

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life;
Such a way as gives us breath,
Such a truth as ends all strife,
Such a life as killeth death



SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission for the world

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise



1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme;
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint - ing soul;
4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;
grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem;
man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:
that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,
and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

DISMISSAL

Be at peace. Shine with the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God

POSTLUDE

Voluntary in D Major
Henry Heron

Join us for virtual coffee hour!

At **11:30 AM** (or shortly after worship concludes) you are invited to grab a cup of coffee and a snack and join us on Zoom for a virtual coffee hour! If your computer has a camera and you'd like to use video chat, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88484060366> and follow the instructions. You may need to install a free piece of software. If you would like to call in on your phone, dial **(929) 205-6099** and enter meeting ID **884 8406 0366**. It won't be as good as the Fireside Room, but it will allow us to check in!

MUSIC NOTES

Today's prelude is a collection of short pieces written by Hugo Distler (1908 – 1942), a German composer and Professor of Church Music in Berlin. Distler based much of his music, including several of the short pieces in the Prelude, on the *pentatonic* scale which contains five tones instead of the seven tones in the conventional scale. A great deal of folk music, as well as many early American hymn tunes, such as NEW BRITAIN (Amazing Grace), are also based on the pentatonic scale. Unfortunately, Distler's music was called "degenerate art" by many in the Nazi government which ultimately, along with his eventual conscription into the German army, led him to commit suicide in 1942. The Postlude, was written by the English organist and composer Henry Heron. Little is known about Henry Heron other than that he lived and worked in London during the 18th century. This piece comes from his only surviving volume of music, a collection of 10 organ voluntaries. In the preface to this publication, Heron lists his title as organist of St. Magnus the Martyr, London Bridge.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

280 Broadway, Lynn, MA 01904

Church: 781-598-0481 Parsonage: 781-584-6631

<http://www.flc-lynn.org> | [facebook.com/flclynn](https://www.facebook.com/flclynn)

The Rev. Jon Niketh, *Pastor*
David Greatrix, *Director of Music Ministry*
Jack King and Patrice Cunningham, *Sextons*
Karin Butterworth, *Council President*

pastor@flclynn.org
music@flclynn.org
pjfamily5@verizon.net
karinbutterworth1@gmail.com



***We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation,
welcoming and serving all people.***