

<sup>22</sup> By contrast, the fruit of the **Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness,** <sup>23</sup> **gentleness, and self-control.** There is no law against such things.

Galatians 5:22

This last week has been one that has brought terror and fear for many of us. We look at some of the images and problems that happened and we wonder how we got here. How did this happen? Where do we go from here? After coming off of 2020 with the hopes for the year so blatant with still some problems to fix, what do we do?

Last week I had a conversation with an 18 year old whom I visit with about religion a lot. Before these problems that happened on Tuesday we were talking about hope. He said, "Hope is overrated sometimes." I know he still had hope, yet he'd been hearing it for so long, and I believe he thought that some, like me, have used to nonchalantly. I agreed with him.

It is hard to have hope when all you see is despair. It is hard to have joy when there is nothing to be joyful about. It is hard to be kind, when all you see is hate and so on. It is especially hard to have peace, when all you see is hate.

The Apostle Paul tells us in *Galatians 3: 27* ***As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.*** We are clothed in our baptism, and then he shares some things that are not the fruits of the Spirit (.rage, anger, malice and the like). Then he shares that the fruits of the Spirit are these words, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. which we believe, which we trust, which we allow into our hearts so that we might turn to them, even when it is hard, and know the love of Jesus Christ for us and for each other.

We are clothed in Jesus Christ in our baptism. That means we are forgiven, devil must flee, a child of God and called to the mission of Jesus Christ. At this time and place, my image is clothing each other and anointing them in love. That it might just surround me, dripping, and I might show that love to all my neighbors.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are going to get through this. We are going to walk together in these words with hope, always hope, with peace always peace, with confidence, always confidence with our God who hears us, loves us, sent his Son to live with us, and the Holy Spirit to guide us. With these fruits of the Spirit we hang on to truth. Even though we have been sharing this mantra all of our lives, and especially this last year, they still ring true.

God promises.

Peace, *Pastor Brenda*

**A PRAYER FOR OUR NATION: "Eternal God, amid all the turmoil and changes of the world your love is steadfast and your strength never fails. In this time of danger and trouble, be to us a sure guardian and rock of defense. Guide the leaders of our nation with your wisdom, comfort those in distress, and grant us courage and hope to face the future; Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy. Amen.**

+++++

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

January 17, 2021-Second Sunday after Epiphany

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

"We are called by God to grow in faith together, sharing Christ's love with each other and our community"





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.

## Prelude

## Welcome

**Hymn**            “**Christ, Be Our Light**” (vs. 1, 2 refrain, 4 refrain)            **Red Worship Book 715**

**1** Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

*Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.*

**2** Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice.

*Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.*

## Confession and Forgiveness

L: 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.

**C: Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L: Holy God,

**C: 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.**

## Greeting

**Red Worship Book pg. 203**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

L Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*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.*

## First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his

room; <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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." <sup>7</sup> Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." [<sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."]

<sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." <sup>17</sup> 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." <sup>18</sup> 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."

<sup>19</sup> As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. <sup>20</sup> And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.]

**Hymn "You Are Mine" (vs. 1, 2, refrain, 4, refrain)**

**Red Worship Book 581**

**1** I will come to you in the silence I will lift you from all your fear You will hear My voice I claim you as My choice Be still, and know I am near

**2** I am hope for all who are hopeless I am eyes for all who long to see In the shadows of the night, I will be your light Come and rest in Me

*Refrain: Do not be afraid, I am with you I have called you each by name Come and follow Me I will bring you home I love you and you are mine*

**3** I am the Word that leads all to freedom I am the peace the world cannot give I will call your name, embracing all your pain Stand up, now, walk, and live

*Refrain: Do not be afraid, I am with you I have called you each by name Come and follow Me I will bring you home I love you and you are mine*

**Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18**

L: LORD, you have searched me out;

**C: O LORD, you have known me.**

L: You know my sitting down and my rising up;

**C: you discern my thoughts from afar.**

L: You trace my journeys and my resting-places

**C: and are acquainted with all my ways.**

L: Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,

**C: but you, O LORD, know it altogether.**

L: You encompass me, behind and before,

**C: and lay your hand upon me.**

L: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

**C: it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

L: For you yourself created my inmost parts;

**C: you knit me together in my mother's womb.**

L: I will thank you because I am marvelously made;

**C: your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

L: My body was not hidden from you,

**C: while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.**

L: Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book;

**C: my days were fashioned before they came to be.**

L: How deep I find your thoughts, O God!

**C: How great is the sum of them!**

L: If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;

**C: to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.**

*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.*

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20**

<sup>12</sup>“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. <sup>13</sup>“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. <sup>14</sup>And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. <sup>15</sup>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! <sup>16</sup>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.” <sup>17</sup>But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. <sup>18</sup>Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. <sup>19</sup>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? <sup>20</sup>For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

**The Holy Gospel according to St. John**

**C: Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)**

**Red Worship Book pg. 206**

*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.”*

**Gospel: John 1:43-51**

<sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” <sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>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.” <sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” <sup>47</sup>When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!”

<sup>48</sup>Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” <sup>49</sup>Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” <sup>50</sup>Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” <sup>51</sup>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 Our Lord**

**C: Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)**

**Red Worship Book pg. 206**

**Sermon**

**Come and See: John 1: 43-51**

**Pastor Brenda Wicklund**

**Grace mercy and peace to you from God our Father and Lord and Savior Jesus Our Christ, Amen**

As I have gone on my walks now in the winter of our season, I have met my neighbor. “Oh it's so good to see you!” It certainly makes my day that someone would be so happy to see me. Now, she is over ninety years old and walks every day. Snow, rain or sunshine. She is happy to see, me. You know the feeling right? A

greeting from someone you have not seen for a while, a loved one or friend, when you are really seen you it is amazing.

Our Gospel reading today finds Jesus in the beginning of his ministry calling his disciples or some of them. Previously John the Baptist has said, look, **“Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1: 29).”** He was pointing to Jesus. Two disciples follow Jesus, one being Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, who tells Simon who is renamed Peter.

Our Gospel reading begins with Jesus going to Galilee. He tells Philip, “Follow me.” Philip is from the same town as Andrew and Peter so they would know each other. Philip tells Nathanael, **“We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph, from Nazareth.”** Nathanael said, **“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”** Philip said, **“Come and see (John 1: 45-46).”** Indeed, can anything good come from a certain town?

One friend helping another. One disciple that is following Jesus, finding another disciple who will follow Jesus. Of course, Nathanael needs to be convinced. He needs to know. He wasn't under the fig tree for nothing. He knew the law.

They would have known, **Jeremiah 33:15,** <sup>15</sup> **In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.** , Daniel 11:7, **a branch from her roots shall rise up in his place. He shall come against the army and enter the fortress of the king of the north, and he shall take action against them and prevail,** and Zechariah 3:8b-10. **I am going to bring my servant the Branch.** <sup>9</sup> **For on the stone that I have set before Joshua, on a single stone with seven facets, I will engrave its inscription, says the Lord of hosts, and I will remove the guilt of this land in a single day.** <sup>10</sup> **On that day, says the Lord of hosts, you shall invite each other to come under your vine and fig tree.”** When The Branch comes, an Israelite shall call his neighbor under the fig tree.

Jesus sees and Nathanael is under the fig tree. Studying the law. Hoping against hope that the branch will come as promised, that God will prevail, that all their study will happen and their eyes will see. Nathanael wants someone to see him, and for him to see God, he wants the truth told and he is waiting to follow the one. The branch. He is ready. Under the fig tree. **“When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, ‘Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!’”**

Jesus revealed to Nathanael, the disciples, who really have to see, that really have to experience and told to follow me. This is going to be a beautiful call. A tough call. We are called as well to see, really see Jesus in the world, with Scripture around to guide us. We watch for the world that is suffering of others. Where the hungry are fed, the naked are clothed the prisoners are visited and set free. Where death, loneliness, spiritual and physical hunger we expect to see Christ shows up. (Rolf Jacobson)

We call others to come and see disciples making disciples. Our call, no matter what it is or how you work or proclaim the Good News of Christ and his love for all....the entire world, is evident in the life of Jesus Christ.

It will not be easy. Samuel in our reading today, after serving Eli, who has sons in the temple who are not following God's law and God, has noticed. Samuel finally realizes it's God calling him instead of Eli, and says, “Speak, for your servant is listening. (1 Samuel 3: 10). He has to tell his teacher what is going to happen. That sounds like a tough call. Moses has to go back to the place he ran from and tries to change God's mind, but he went back. That sounds like a tough call. This call of being a disciple of Jesus Christ, whom revealed to the disciples and us every day, is tough at times.

Yet if we want John 3:16, **For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.** For God so loved the world. The entire world. Everybody. If we want this to come to pass, we answer the call.

Love God love your neighbor. And see. See as Mother Theresa said to a rich donor who had her checkbook in hand how she could help all the poor, sick and chaos in Calcutta. Mother Teresa pressed the checkbook back in her hands and said, "Come and see." She led her to a sick, frail and hungry child and said, "Care for her." The woman did. Transforming for sure once she answered the call and really, really seen what the need was, and how to sign up for this call. It was definitely more than money that was required. Service. Love. Empathy. Love.

We know the love of Jesus Christ that he has shown us revealed to our neighbors. We learn each day from Scripture and each other, not having it perfect all the time, yet working on "seeing" each other. This call in Jesus Christ is beautiful and yet hard at times. See those we agree with. See those we do not agree with. See love instead of hate. We know how much God forgives and loves us, which gives us strength to forgive and love others. For the entire world. A transformation and revelation from God.

As we give our worries and concerns to God, know that Jesus sees you, that you are not alone, and that this exciting, beautiful world made in chaos, turns to joy and hope. I love this story of Nathaniel and God revealed in Jesus Christ, God come to earth, under the fig tree. I see Nathaniel in excitement getting ready to serve God, because Jesus asked. Ah, consider the outcome. Jesus sees.

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts, and minds of Jesus Christ, who sees you. **Amen.**

**Hymn** "Will You Come and Follow Me" The Summons (vs. 1, 4, 5) **Red Worship Book 798**

- 1** "Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known, will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
- 4** "Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name? Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same? Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
- 5** Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

**Prayers of Intercession**

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

*A brief silence.*

L: For the body of Christ gathered throughout the world and for all servants of the gospel, that following Jesus, the church lives out its calling every day, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

L: For the well-being of creation, for plants and animals, and for all that God has marvelously made, that we serve as wise stewards of Earth, our home, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

L: For police officers and firefighters, for attorneys and paralegals, for peacekeepers and military personnel, and for the leaders of governments, that they provide protection to all people, especially the most vulnerable, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

L: For those lacking food or shelter, for those who are sick or grieving, and for those who are imprisoned or homebound, that God console all who suffer, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

L: For our neighborhood, for visitors joining us for the first time or returning, and for those absent from our assembly, that all who seek to know God are nourished by word and sacrament, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

L: In thanksgiving for the saints who have gone before us, that their lives give us a vision of the gospel in action, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

L: 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.

**C: Amen.**

### **Offering Prayer**

L: O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.

**C: Amen**

### **Words of Institution**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Red Worship Book pg. 208**

**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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Prayer**

L: Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name.

**C: Amen.**

### **Blessing**

**Red Worship Book pg. 114**

L God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep you in peace.

**C: Amen.**

### **Hymn**

**“Lord, Be Glorified”**

**Red Worship Book 744**

- 1** In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified; in my life, Lord, be glorified today.
- 2** In our song, Lord, be glorified, be glorified; in our song, Lord, be glorified today.
- 3** In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified; in your church, Lord, be glorified today.
- 4** In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified. In your world, Lord, be glorified today

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

*the worship is ended ... let the service begin...*





**Prayer Concerns ~ (Names will be on for one month unless requested longer.)**

JoAnne Shober, Nancy Nelson, Marsha Skoog (friend of Patty Sweeny), Larry Lammers (brother-in-law of Elaine Garaghty), Sue Youngblom, John Bassett, Max Tatting, John Shober, Pearl Anderson (sister of Joyce Seegebarth), Chelsley Exsted and 2 children (granddaughter and great grandchildren of Pat Anderson), Peter Thorvig, Kay Conway, George and Joan Wells (brother/sister-in-law of Gary and Gail Wells), Eric Mettling (deployed for service), Jessica Lindahl, Carol Bostrom, Leigha Ness (Pastor Brenda's great-niece), and Barbara Ekberg (sister of Loretta Sprado.)

**Next Week's Readings and Psalm**

**First Reading**

**[Jonah 3:1-5, 10](#)**

**Psalm**

**[Psalm 62:5-12](#)**

**Second Reading**

**[1 Corinthians 7:29-31](#)**

**Gospel**

**[Mark 1:14-20](#)**

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