



Sunday, February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany

Welcome to The Beloved Community at The Trees, an Episcopal faith community exploring together what a life of faith “outside of a church” may be. Through our faith in Jesus Christ, we believe that all people are God’s beloved and all are welcome, regardless of race, gender identity, sexual identity, ability, faith background, or belief.

In our Baptismal Covenant, we affirm that we will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. To remember our baptismal promises, that all are God’s beloved, and that we are all one in Christ, we begin each worship gathering with the “Blessing of the Water.”

Blessing of the Water

Adapted from Prayer Over the Water, The Church of England

Reader We praise you, loving God,
 for the gift of your Son Jesus.
 He was baptized in the River Jordan,
 where your Spirit came upon him
 and revealed him as the Son you love.
 He sent his followers
 to baptize all who turn to him.

Celebrant Now, loving God, we ask you to bless this water,
 that those who are baptized in it
 may be cleansed in the water of life,
 and, filled with your Spirit,
 may know that they are loved as your children,
 safe in Christ for ever. ***Amen.***

Opening Acclamation

Adapted from The Book of Alternative Services of the Anglican Church of Canada

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

People **And also with you.**

All who hunger gather gladly

Wonder Love and Praise #761

1. All who hun - ger gath - er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na
 2. All who hun - ger, nev - er stran - gers, seek - er, be a
 3. All who hun - ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is

is our bread. Come from wil - der - ness and wan - d'ring.
 wel - come guest. Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing.
 liv - ing bread. Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing.

Here in truth we will be fed. You that yearn for
 Here, in joy we keep the feast. We that once were
 Here, in peace, we have been fed. Blest are those who

days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
 lost and scat - tered in com - mun - ion's love have stood.
 from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.

Taste and see the grace e - - ter - - nal.
 Taste and see the grace e - - ter - - nal.
 Taste and see the grace e - - ter - - nal.

Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see that God is good.

Harmony (the melody is in the tenor)

1. All who hun - ger gath - er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na
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Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993). Music: *Holy Manna*, from *The Southern Harmony*, 1835; alt. harm., *Columbian Harmony*, 1825.

The Collect for Purity

Celebrant Almighty God,
All **to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
 and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of
 our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
 perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name;
 through Christ our Lord. *Amen***

Kyrie Eleison

All **Lord, have mercy.**
 Christ, have mercy.
 Lord, have mercy.

The Collect

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

Narrative Lectionary Theme ~ The Woman at the Well

Introduction by Carolyn Kreuger

The First Lesson

Psalm 42:1-3 ~ First Nations Version Psalms and Proverbs: An Indigenous Bible Translation

O Great Spirit, like a deer panting for streams of water, my dry and thirsty soul pants for you.

My whole being longs to drink deeply of you, for you are the true and living Great Spirit. When can I go to meet with you face to face?

Tears are my only food as I weep day and night. My enemies never stop taunting me, saying, “Where has your Great Spirit gone?”

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

The Gospel

John 4:1-42

Deacon The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, “Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John”

(although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized), he left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And

many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

Deacon The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

Lectioary Discussion

What did the Holy Spirit bring to your attention? What good news did you hear?

During this time you are invited to share your thoughts, questions, or insights about our readings.

The Nicene Creed

People **We believe –**

In the One God:

**Source of all,
 ruler of all,
 maker of heaven and earth:
 of all things seen or unseen.**

And in one Lord:

**Jesus of Nazareth,
 Christ the Messiah,
 the only-born Word of God;
 eternally issued of that of the One:**

**God of God, light of light, true God of true God;
 issued, not made:
 the same being as the One;**

and through whom all things are made;

That for us mortals

**and for our salvation
 came down from heaven;
 and was made flesh**

of the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary;
and became human;
Was also crucified, for our sake,
under the reign of Pontius Pilate:
and suffered, and was buried;
and arose on the third day,
in accordance with the scriptures,
and went back up into heaven;
and sits in power beside the One:
and shall come again, in glory,
to judge those living and dead;
and whose presence shall have no end.

And we believe in the Spirit:
the Holy,
the Lord,
and the lifegiving;
that pours forth of that of the One:
that with One and Word together
we worship and glorify as God;
that speaks in the prophets.

In one holy, universal, and missionary church:
we accept one baptism for the forgiveness of sins;
we await the raising of the dead,
and the life of the age soon to come.

Amen.

Prayers of the People

Celebrant In peace and in faith, let us offer our prayers to God. We remember those among us and those we love in our prayers; especially Alayna, Anthony, Chris, Gregory, Kerry, Lera, Marie, Maureen, Nikki, and Patty.

You are invited to share your prayers aloud or silently in your heart. After each prayer is shared aloud, the following response is said. You are also invited to share your prayers on a prayer card and place it in the offering basket next to the baptismal font. Someone from The Beloved Community will take your card home and pray for you over the coming week.

You are invited to share your prayers aloud or silently in your heart. After each prayer is shared aloud, the following response is said.

This is my prayer.

This is our prayer.

After all prayers have been shared.

Celebrant God of peace, let us your people know, that at the heart of turbulence there is an inner calm that comes from faith in you. Keep us from being content with things as they are, that from this central peace there may come a creative compassion, a thirst for justice, and a willingness to give of ourselves in the spirit of Christ.

All **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Celebrant Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
God welcomes sinners and invites them to God's table.
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

A moment of silence for private prayer.

Celebrant Most merciful God,
All **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.**

Absolution

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life,
through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Announcements

During this time we will share announcements for The Beloved Community at The Trees and others.

The Offering

Celebrant But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

You are invited to share your gifts, financial or other, with the gathered community. During this time of preparation for the Holy Community, you are also invited to remember your baptism.

Music for Preparation

O Food to pilgrims given

The Hymnal 1982, #309

The musical score consists of three staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef, the middle is in bass clef, and the bottom is in bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in three stanzas, each corresponding to a staff. The first stanza is in treble, the second in bass, and the third in bass. The lyrics are as follows:

1 O	Food to pil - grims	giv - en, O	Bread of life from
2 O	stream of love past	tell - ing, O	pur - est foun - tain,
3 O	Je - sus, by thee	bid - den, we	here a - dore thee,

heaven, O

Man - na

from on

high!

We

well

ing from

out the

Sa -

side!

We

hid

den in

forms of

Savior's

bread and

wine.

Grant

hun - ger; Lord, sup - ply us, nor thy de - lights dc -
 faint with thirst; re - vive us, of thine a - bun - dance
 when the veil is riv - en, we may be - hold, in

 ny us, whose hearts to thee draw nigh.
 give us, and all we need pro - vide.
 hea ven, thy coun - te - nance di - vine.

Words: Latin, 1661; tr. John Athelstan Laurie (1858-1945), alt. By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: *O Welt, ich muss dich lassen*, present form of melody att. Heinrich Isaac (1450?-1517), alt.; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

The Presentation of Our Offerings to God

Celebrant All things come of Thee O Lord,
People **And of Thine own have we given Thee.**

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer 3, The Anglican Church of Canada

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
 God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant We give thanks to you, Lord our God,
for the goodness and love
you have made known to us in creation;
in calling Israel to be your people;
in your Word spoken through the prophets;
and above all in the Word made flesh,
Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him
to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil,
and made us worthy to stand before you.

In him, you have brought us out of error into truth,
out of sin into righteousness,
out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over
to suffering and death,
a death he freely accepted,
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
and said, “Take, eat:
this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine;
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them,
and said, “Drink this, all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,

do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

All **we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant and we offer our sacrifice
of praise and thanksgiving
to you, Lord of all;
presenting to you, from your creation,
this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God,
to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts,
that they may be the sacrament
of the body of Christ
and his blood of the new covenant.
Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice,
that we, made acceptable in him,
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time,
reconcile all things in Christ,
and make them new,
and bring us to that city of light
where you dwell with all your beloved;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
the firstborn of all creation,
the head of the Church,
and the author of our salvation;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
almighty Father,
now and for ever.

All **Amen!**

Celebrant And now as our Savior has taught us,
we are bold to say,

All

Our Lord that is in heaven:
blessed be your name.
Your dominion come:
your will be done
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us today our next day's bread:
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And leave us not prey to temptation:
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the dominion: the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

People **We, being many, are one body,**
for we all share in the one bread.

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God!

People **Thanks be to God.**

Time for Prayer and Reflection

We will observe a few moments of quiet for personal prayer and reflection following the Eucharist. You are invited to pray where you are or move about the space. Deacon Dan is available for healing prayers and anointing during this time.

Taize & Contemplation ~ Christe, Lux Mundi

Christ, You Are Light



♩ = 58

Chri - ste, lux mun - di, qui se - qui - tur te ha - be - bit lu-men vi - tae, lu-men vi - tae.

Christ, you are Light for those who follow you.

You come to bring to all the light of life.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant All your works praise you, O Lord.

People **And your faithful servants bless you.**

Gracious God

**we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son**

Jesus Christ.

**May we, who share his body,
live his risen life;
we, who drink his cup,
ring life to others;
we, whom the Spirit lights,
give light to the world.**

**Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so that we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing

Celebrant You are one in whom Christ delights and dwells.

You live in the strong and unshakeable kingdom of God.

The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither are you.

And the blessing of God almighty,
our most holy, glorious and undivided Trinity,
be among you this day, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Prayer for Our Shared Meal

From The Book of Alternative Services of the Anglican Church of Canada

Deacon Creator of the universe, you give us this gift of food to nourish us and give us life. Bless this food that you have made and human hands have prepared. May it satisfy our hunger, and in sharing it together may we come closer to one another. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Deacon Go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

You are invited to join our community for a shared meal of soup/salad and bread immediately following our worship service.

We are grateful for our sending parish, The Church of the Nativity, Raleigh, who supported The Beloved Community with their presence, prayer, and resources for our first year.

We are grateful for the use of The Trees, graciously provided to us at no cost by St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Durham. We also give thanks to St. Philip's for the gift of flowers and printing. Each Sunday, St. Philip's shares their flowers with The Beloved Community so that we too may enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

We acknowledge that we are gathering on the ancestral territory of the Eno, the Tuscarora, the Occaneechi, and others.

We are grateful that you are with us. Your presence is a gift to The Beloved Community at the Trees, and that is enough. If you would like to support our community financially, you can do so by leaving your offering in the basket.

The Beloved Community at The Trees

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