

January 24, 2010

The flowers this morning are in loving
memory of Donald Finlayson
and given by his family.

Participating in today's service are: Ken Smee (coordinating greeter); Willie Smee, Pat Brodie, Ian and Pat Fraser, (greeters); Deborah Hart (liturgist); Teddy Smith (reader); Peter Merrick (preacher); Samantha Denham (sound); Peter Merrick and the Choir. Don Parsons and Connie Capes-Leslie are away today.

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Christianity is a kind of vast spiritual and historical migration, a mobile city of pilgrims, all on their way to a country where there are no maps. Although no map can fix the way, there are signposts to point Christians in the right direction, toward the wisdom of God, toward love, toward home. Things like hospitality, contemplation, healing, testimony, and justice. Christians call these signposts “practices,” the activities drawn from our tradition that we do together in community. Practices form Christians in faith as they deepen their trust in God’s love and strengthen their love for the world.

From the earliest days of the Christian faith, Jesus’ followers, known as people of the Way, were recognized by what they did—practicing hospitality and forgiveness. Too often, contemporary Christianity seems to be a religion about belief, a kind of spiritual club that can be joined by agreeing to a statement of faith.

But emerging Christianity is not about pure doctrine or agreeing with a set of philosophical presuppositions. The kind of Christianity enacted in the congregations where I traveled is more like a recovery group: “Act as if...” If you act like a Christian by joining in its practices, by following its tracings, you may well become one. Being a Christian is not a one-moment miracle of salvation. It takes practice. It is a process of faith and a continuing conversion. And it can be a long walk.

from *Christianity for the Rest of Us*
by Diana Butler Bass

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

EGLINTON ST. GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH

January 24, 2010 10:30 a.m.

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

*The congregation is invited to join in responses which are **bold**.*

OPENING DOORS

PRELUDE Blessed Jesus, we are gathered *J.S. Bach*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING *(The congregation stands as able.)*

Arise, shine, for your light has come;
the glory of God has risen upon you.
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you.
And also with you.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 264 Immortal, invisible, God only wise *St. Denio*

OPENING PRAYER

God be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray: *(The congregation remains standing.)*
Holy and gracious God:
at your word, light exploded into being;
the cosmos is radiant with light of star and nova and galaxy;
and when we sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
you send your Word made flesh
to be for us the Light of the world.
Illuminate our minds with the light of your wisdom,
and fill our hearts with the radiance of your love,
that by your grace we may reflect your light



Words: Bernadette Farrell
Music: Bernadette Farrell

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OPENING HEARTS

PRAYER OF THE DAY

THE LORD'S PRAYER *p. 914*

OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK

ANTHEM In the heart where love is abiding *Plainsong, arr. John Barnard*

In the heart where love is abiding, God is in that heart; and the love of Christ has made us all of one heart. Then with joyful and with glad hearts let us thank him; let us fear God and remember all his goodness. Let us love each other with a pure and clean heart: may no quarrelling or dispute come between us. Let us see your face, O Lord Christ, now among us. Let us sing with all the angels praise to Jesus, in a song of joy that wells up from a clean heart. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 569 You call us out *Thornbury*

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE Little Prelude and Fugue in G Minor *J.S. Bach*

SERMON Mirror, Mirror

HYMN Christ, Be Our Light

Farrell



Long - ing for light, — we wait in dark - ness.
Long - ing for peace, — our world is trou - led.
Long - ing for food, — ma - ny are hun - gry.
Long - ing for shel - ter, ma - ny are home - less,
Ma - ny the gifts, — ma - ny the peo - ple,



Long - ing for truth, — we turn to you.
Long - ing for hope, — man - y des - pair.
Long - ing for wa - ter, ma - ny still thirst.
long - ing for warmth, — ma - ny are cold.
ma - ny the hearts that yearn to be - long.



Make us your own, — your ho - ly peo - ple,
Your word a - lone — has power to save us.
Make us your bread, — brok - en for oth - ers,
Make us your build - ing, shel - ter - ing oth - ers,
Let us be ser - vants to one an - oth - er,



light for the world to see. —
Make us your liv - ing voice. —
shared un - til all are fed. —
walls made of liv - ing stone. —
mak - ing your king - dom come. —



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

to all the dark places of our world.
Through Jesus Christ, our life and our light. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

RESPONSE HYMN 37 Gloria

Gloria

(The congregation sings the Gloria once in unison, then twice in a four-part round.)

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

(The congregation is invited to share signs of Peace with their neighbours.)

LEARNING TOGETHER TIME

HYMN 579 The church is wherever God's people

Dancing Day

(The children leave for Church School.)

OPENING MINDS

EPISTLE Philippians 1 (from *The Message*)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM 133 *(Refrain: all; Verses: soloists.)*

p. 856

GOSPEL Matthew 5: 1-16

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.
Praise to you, O Christ.

MOTET O gladsome Light

Walter MacNutt

O gladsome Light, O grace of God the Father's face, the eternal splendour wearing; celestial, holy, blest, our Saviour Jesus Christ, joyful in thine appearing. To thee of right belongs all praise of holy songs, O Son of God, life-giver; thee, therefore O Most High, the world doth glorify and shall exalt him forever.