



**Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA**

*"Encouraging faith and proclaiming God's love by Gathering, Growing and Giving."*

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany *Service of the Word/Annual Meeting*

January 30, 2022

***This worship is being livestreamed. Your presence in the sanctuary signifies your agreeing to be on our live broadcast.***

*There is great joy in gathering with one another to lift up praise and thanksgiving to God. Measures have been put in place to provide a safe environment for us to gather in church to worship, and we ask that you do your part in this endeavor, as well.*

*Warm welcome to those of you joining in worship online today.*

**NOTE:** **Bold** text indicates **worshippers' response**, and '\*' means please stand as you are able

PRELUDE

Michelle Young

WELCOME/MINISTRY MESSAGE

**GATHERING**

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

P: God comes into a world filled with uncertainties and darkness.

**ALL: God seeks out the voids of belief and conviction.**

P: God embraces the wounded and broken.

**ALL: God knocks down the walls of division and strife.**

P: God is the candle shining in the darkness of our days.

**ALL: God is the light of our lives.**

P: God is the one who makes all things new.

**ALL: Praise be to God, now and forevermore!** <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/01/call-to-worship-prayer-epiphany-4b.html>

\* P: As we gather for worship today, I greet you in the name of our God who is always being revealed to us – in a manger, in a river, at a wedding, in the words of God spoken to us through prophets. We gather now in the expectation that God will once again show up in our gatherings at home, in church, and throughout our community. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

\* PRAYER OF THE DAY Almighty and ever-living God, **increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**GROWING**

OTHER READINGS FOR TODAY:

\* Jeremiah 1:4-10 *I (God) appointed you a prophet to the nations*

\* Psalm 71:1-6 *From my mother's womb you have been my strength.*

\* 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 *If I speak without love, I am a noisy gong.*

*People in Jesus' hometown are initially pleased when he says that God will free the oppressed. Their pleasure turns to rage when he reminds them that God's prophetic mission typically pushes beyond human boundaries so that mercy and healing are extended to those regarded as outsiders.*

The Good News, according to the Gospel of Luke the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter, **All: Glory to you O Lord**

<sup>21</sup>Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in the synagogue in Nazareth,] "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." <sup>22</sup>All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" <sup>23</sup>He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" <sup>24</sup>And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. <sup>25</sup>But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; <sup>26</sup>yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. <sup>27</sup>There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." <sup>28</sup>When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. <sup>29</sup>They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup>But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way. The Gospel of the Lord **All: Praise be to God.**

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Mary Eide

#768 HYMN OF THE DAY *He Comes to Us as One Unknown* vs. 1, 2, 4 **p. 4**

GIVING

\* OFFERTORY PRAYER Blessed are you, O God, **who offers us new beginnings and guides us on our journey. We give in thanksgiving for what you have already given us. Now prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. Amen.**

\* PRAYERS AND PETITIONS (L: God of grace **All: Hear our prayer.**)

\* ANNOUNCEMENTS/ BLESSING God, who leads you in pathways of right living, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, ✠ bless your going out and coming in, today and forever. **Amen.**

\* Green #559 SENDING HYMN *Praise and Thanksgiving* vs. 1, 2, 4 **p. 5**

\* DISMISSAL Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

\* POSTLUDE (*We will take a brief break to set up the Zoom session for the meeting*) Michelle Young

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH AND BEYOND OUR DOORS

<b>Today:</b>	<b>8:45am</b>	<b>– Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>– Worship/Annual Meeting</b>
MONDAY	7pm	- AA Meeting
TUESDAY	4-6pm	- Food Pantry
	7pm	- 4 <sup>th</sup> GriefShare online session (not too late to join)
WEDNESDAY	3:20pm	- 7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> gr. Confirmation class
FRIDAY:	10am-Noon	- Food Pantry
SATURDAY:	9:00am	- Luther Park Bible Annual Meeting
SUNDAY:	8:45am	- Sunday School Classes
	10:00am	- Communion Worship
	12-4pm	- Chilifest at Luther Park Bible Camp

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don't forget to get your SUPERBOWL SUB ORDERS IN by **Tuesday, Feb. 8th!!** *Did you hear that this year we have delivery service within the Elk Mound area? That's right folks, spread the news!* Order forms can be found: at church and in your January newsletter (which is also on our church website [www.sothem.org](http://www.sothem.org) )

WE NEED YOU! Check out sign-up sheets for *WORSHIP ROLES* for upcoming months or *HOST FELLOWSHIP* after worship on 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. You can also call or email if you'd like to sign up.

GRIEF SHARE Began January 11...**but you can still join!!** This is a thirteen-week grief support group meeting on Tuesdays of every week at 7:00 PM via ZOOM. Call Denise at Trinity United Methodist Church Elk Mound at (715) 879-5596 to register and purchase your workbook for \$15.00. Workbooks are available at Trinity Elk Mound or Hudson UMC Hudson.



BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS

Relationships in life can be messy and tricky. We set up the expectation in our mind that our interactions with those we know will go well and not cause and chaos or drama in our lives, but reality can be something quite different. This doesn't mean we should just adopt the assumption every interaction will go poorly. Instead, Jesus offers us an example of the importance of having the Holy Spirit with us throughout the day. *No, you don't have to be the Son of God to have this available to you.* Everyone of us can be filled with the Spirit. Everyone of us can invite the Spirit into our daily lives, and especially difficult situations we experience.

1. Have you ever had to present the truth about something to a family member, co-worker, or others, when you knew it wouldn't be received well? How did that feel for you? What emotions did you experience?
2. How did people react to your message, or even your attempt to share it? Were you shocked or surprised by their response?
3. Were you able to stick to your message? Or did you find yourself stepping around the awkward pauses or complaints voiced, and NOT present the message you wanted? How did that feel?

In Luke's gospel message today, we heard how Jesus had a very difficult truth to reveal to people who knew him very well. He came to free the captives and those oppressed, to bring sight to the blind. He tells them he is the one promised to come...but he came for ALL PEOPLE and not just for the Jews.

1. Are you surprised by how the people reacted to Jesus' message? They literally wanted to 'throw him off a high cliff' because they were enraged over his words.
2. How have YOU recently responded to someone's message you didn't agree with?
3. What is one way the Spirit could help you in such situations in the future?

# He Comes to Us as One Unknown

Verses 1, 2 and 4



1 He comes to us as one un-known, a breath un - seen, un -  
2 He comes when souls in si - lence lie and thoughts of day de -  
3 He comes to us in sound of seas, the o - cean's fume and  
4 He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and  
5 He comes in truth when faith is grown; be - lieved, o - beyed, a -

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heard; as though with - in a heart of stone, or shriv - eled seed in  
part; half - seen up - on the in - ward eye, a fall - ing star a -  
foam; yet small and still up - on the breeze, a wind that stirs the  
birth; to bear with - in our mor - tal frame a life, a death, a  
dored; the Christ in all the scrip - tures shown, as yet un - seen, but



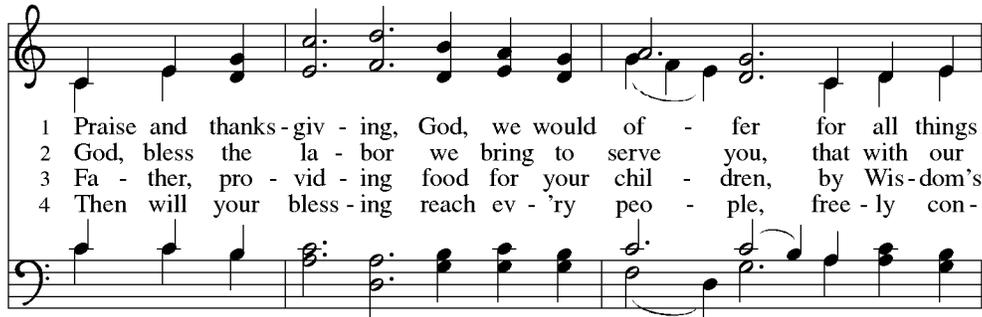
dark - ness sown, a pulse of be - ing stirred, a pulse of be - ing stirred.  
cross the sky of night with - in the heart, of night with - in the heart.  
tops of trees, a voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.  
sav - ing name, for ev - 'ry child of earth, for ev - 'ry child of earth.  
not un - known, our Sav - ior and our Lord, our Sav - ior and our Lord.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926  
Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848-1918  
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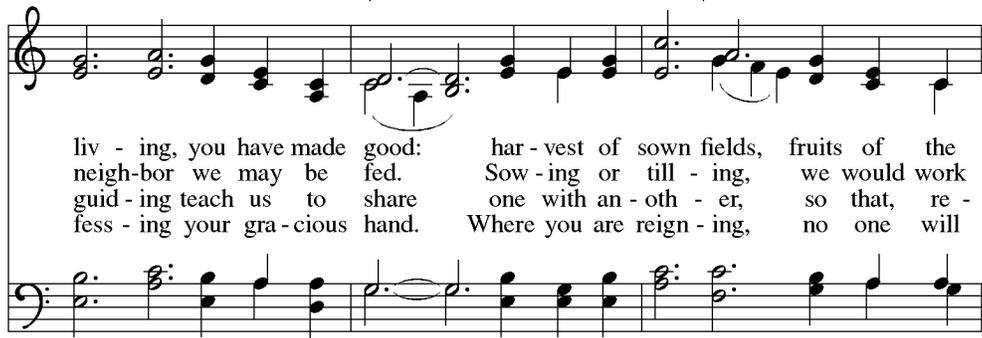
# Praise and Thanksgiving

Verses 1, 2 and 4

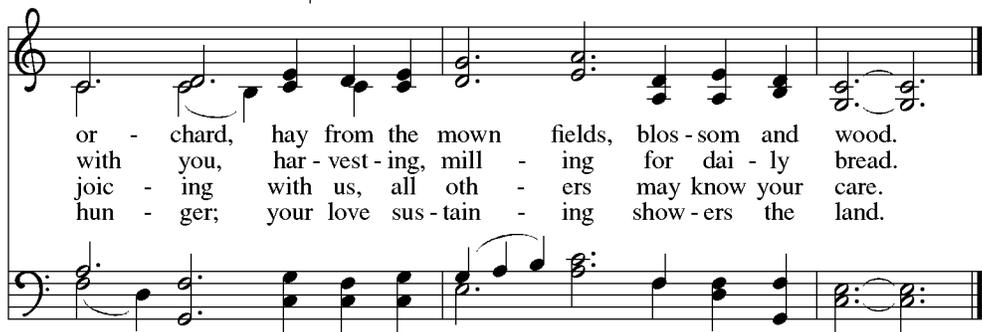


1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things  
2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our  
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's  
4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -

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liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the  
neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work  
guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -  
fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.  
with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.  
joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.  
hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.  
Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version  
Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.  
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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*A sign in sheet is being passed around, only voting members may sign in  
(Active confirmed/affirmed members who have communed and given at least one time in 2019)*

LITANY FOR OPENING OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

L. Today our congregation gathers in prayer and hope to begin another year of ministry. We bring with us the memory of another year dealing with a global pandemic, and we move into a future that is still uncertain. Yet even now, as in every age, God is our refuge and strength. In times of plenty and want, in times of conflict and peace, in times of growing and pruning, we remember:

**All: God has called us for such a time as this.**

L. We remember the past year with lament and gratitude. We have lost so much, and so much feels uncertain. We have also witnessed God's hand at work in new and unexpected ways. We delight at hidden seeds bearing surprising and wonderful fruit. When our own resources fail, when we cannot predict the future, when we must rely on God alone, we remember:

**All: God has called us for such a time as this.**

L. We look ahead to the road we will travel together this year. We anticipate and receive with joy the new gifts God's love has planned. We pray for the grace to let go of what has served its holy purpose. When we are trailblazers or followers, when we are seekers or visionaries, when we must walk by faith and not by sight, we remember:

**All: God has called us for such a time as this.**

L. And so we pray: Grace our meeting, O God, with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the Spirit who has guided the church from the beginning, the Spirit of our risen Lord Jesus, the Spirit who sends us as healers and restorers of your beloved world. You are the source of our life together. You are the rock and cornerstone.

**All: God has called us for such a time as this.**

L. Let us pray. O God, **you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.** .

*FOLLOW MEETING AGENDA in printed Congregational Annual Report*

We close our meeting with THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Thank you for making the time to be a participant in today's meeting. It is important for us to stay connected in any way possible. This is especially as we worship God...do God's work in the world...share Jesus' love, mercy, and justice...and follow the Spirit's guidance in all we say and do.**

**Please let you church leadership know of how YOU want to engage in the ministry of the church. Also let us know you concerns, ideas, and ways we can support you and your family.**