

**“Follow me,
and I will
make you fish
for people.”**



January 31, 2021

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
38801 Blacow Road
Fremont, CA 94536
Church: (510) 793-6285

January 31, 2021
4th Sunday after Epiphany/RIC Sunday
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

[Click here for a video of the service.](#)

Parts of today's service are taken from Reconciling Works resources.

PRELUDE . . . *“All Are Welcome”*

WELCOME

SINGING BOWL

During the ringing of the bowl, you are encouraged to center your thoughts on God the Creator, Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

INVOCATION

L: Praise God, who loves us all.

All: Praise God, who is full of mercy and compassion.

L: Praise God, who loves us well.

All: Praise God, who creates honesty and justice.

L: Praise God, who invites us to love.

All: Praise God, who loves through us and our actions.

CONFESSION

All may make the sign of the cross.

L: In the name of the Creator, and of the Redeemer, and of the Sanctifier, whom we invite into this space.

All: Amen.

L: As a church, we believe all are welcome. Let us name the ways we have fallen short in justice-making for our LGBTQIA+ siblings, Black, Indigenous, People of Color, women-identified people, immigrants, elderly, and those who do not have access to basic human needs.

All: And accept the challenges that stand before us.

L: To those who have been excluded by the church because of who they are and who they love, to those who have systems created against them due to the color of their skin,

All: we ask forgiveness and welcome you.

L: To those who do not have equal access to thrive due to government systems, to those who do not see their identities represented in this church,

All: we ask forgiveness and welcome you.

L: To those who we, the church, have called "those people,"

All: we ask forgiveness and welcome you.

Silence for Reflection

L: The Church is a place where we boldly proclaim and model welcome to each and every child of God.

All: We confess that we have not always made that statement true, and as a result, have pushed away God's Beloveds from our spaces.

L: So we share today, proudly: that people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions matter; that Black, Indigenous, and People of Color matter; and that we as a church stand firmly against racism, homophobia, and transphobia.

All: We seek forgiveness and commit to actions that will bring justice, equity, and healing to those harmed. We do all these things through God's guidance and grace. Amen.

WELCOME STATEMENT

L: We extend a heartfelt embrace to all who are seeking God's love and grace.

All: We welcome all because God welcomes all,

L: regardless of race or culture, Deaf or hearing, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status.

All: We welcome all

L: without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, varying intellects and abilities, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances,

All: or anything that too often divides us.

L: We invite you, wherever you are in your faith journey,

All: to join us in caring, sharing, and serving God through our unity in Christ. Welcome.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

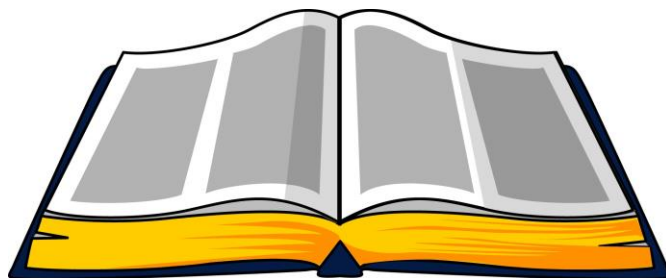
L: God of boundless love, you require each of us to love justice.

All: we follow Christ's example to see, name, and care for all whom we encounter.

L: May your love and grace fill our words and actions, turning us away from the sins of homophobia, transphobia, and racism, to live for you and serve our neighbor.

All: Soften our hearts and expand our awareness today to share in the spirit of God's creation, making the church a place where community is built to experience your grace. In your name, we pray, Amen.

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING



INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

L: We are here, O God, waiting to hear your word.

All: Help us recognize your voice as we listen for your guidance.

L: Search our hearts and open them to your call.

All: We are ready for your word of love.

GOSPEL . . . *Mark 1:14-20*

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

L: Holy Mystery, you know us more intimately than we know ourselves.

All: Open our hearts to your invitation and give us the courage to follow.

CHILDREN’S TIME . . . *Adam Erickson, Director of Mt. Cross Ministries*

HOMILY . . . *Adam Erickson, Director of Mt. Cross Ministries*



INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: Come into Christ's light with your gifts.

All: They need not be gold or precious oil. Gifts of love and compassion are the greatest treasures of all.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: God, you are the source of all goodness and life.

All: We bring our offering to you this day, knowing that all we have comes from you.

L: We hear your call and we answer, bringing all that we have and all that we are.

All: Use our gifts, our talents, and our bodies for your work of peace and justice. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Trusting in the One who made us, dwells in us, and calls us to life, we pray for the world, the church, and all in need. God who was made flesh, we ask for your forgiveness as we fall short to see you embodied in those around us. Give us eyes to see you in the lives of those targeted by police violence; those kicked out of their home because of who they are and who they love; those whose families have been destroyed by forced separations at our country's borders; and for those we have yet to see due to our fears. God, you know what it is like to be cast out. May your Spirit fill us with the courage, conviction, and dedication to work for justice knowing when we do, we are in fact caring for you. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: God of the unknown, all that you are and all that you have been is without boundaries. Open our hearts and minds to the new possibilities that surround us each day. Help us to remember that through your love we are made new with each sunrise and

filled with your Spirit in every breath. May this moment of worship be a touchstone of remembrance that we have something new to see and learn. Give us space to listen and see what you are showing us. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Healer and Comforter, as each day brings new wonderings about the health of our family, friends, community, and nation, we remember that you can hold all we bring to you through prayer with sacred love. With hearts of joy and lament, we bring you the names and places of your people in need, speaking them aloud or in the silence of our hearts, now.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

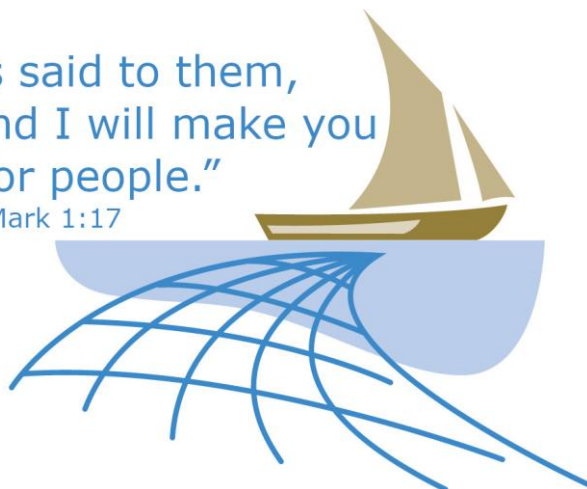
L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

All: Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

And Jesus said to them,
"Follow me and I will make you
fish for people."

Mark 1:17



BENEDICTION

L: Children of God, let us go out into the world in peace; love boldly; proclaim loudly; welcome, include, and celebrate our Black, Brown, Indigenous, People of Color and LGBTQIA+ siblings; and enter back into this space knowing that welcome is a priority in this church. Stand strong against injustices of this world; and let this faith community be a place of care and renewal for as people of God we are called to action.

All: We will go in peace, work for justice, encounter God in all we see, and know we are LOVED!

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Be the Light of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE . . . “Will You Come and Follow Me”

SINGING BOWL

Pastor: Tim Huff

Homilist: Adam Erickson

Lay Liturgists: Carmen Blair, Neal & Rene Bierbaum

Music: Leilani Camara

Video Editing: Carmen Blair

Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema

