



**St. Timothy's Anglican Church, Agincourt**

**Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

***A New Black Liturgy***

**Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Canon Andrea Christensen**

**Deacon: Pastor Elaine Vanderwerf**

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**Those Assisting in our Worship Service**

**Readers:** Ziyah Atkins-Forde/Anne Baillargeon

**Intercessor:** Anne Baillargeon

**PowerPoint Operator:** Susan Thomas      **Subdeacon:** Isolene Holder

**Music:** Marianne Gast, Ann-Marie Barrett-Tandy & the Classic Choir

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PRELUDE

SERVICE SETTING:                      Land of Rest

*Richard Proulx*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS TERRITORY

♪ OPENING HYMN                      Soon and Very Soon

**Verse 1**

Soon and very soon  
We are going to see the King  
Soon and very soon  
We are going to see the King  
Soon and very soon  
We are going to see the King

**Chorus**

Hallelujah hallelujah  
We're going to see the King

**Verse 2**

No more crying there  
We are going to see the King  
No more crying there  
We are going to see the King  
No more crying there  
We are going to see the King

### Verse 3

No more dying there  
We are going to see the King  
No more dying there  
We are going to see the King  
No more dying there  
We are going to see the King

### Bridge 1

Should there be any rivers we must cross  
Should there be any mountains we must climb  
God will supply all the strength that we need  
Give us grace till we reach the other side

### Bridge 2

We have come from every nation  
God knows each of us by name  
Jesus took His blood and He washed our sins  
And He washed them all away  
Yes there are some of us  
Who have laid down our lives  
But we all shall live again  
On the other side

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## WELCOME

### THE GREETING

Leader In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

Leader We meet in the presence of God

**All who knows our needs, hears our cries, feels our pain, and  
heals our wounds.**

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

**All Faithful one, whose word is life: come with saving power  
to free our praise, inspire our prayer and shape our lives  
for the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Silence is kept*

## PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Leader Human sin disfigures the whole creation, which groans with eager longing for God's redemption. We confess our sin in penitence and faith.

Lord God, our maker and our redeemer, this is your world and we are your people: come among us and save us. We have willfully misused your gifts of creation;

Lord, be merciful:

**All forgive us our sin.**

Leader We have seen the ill-treatment of others and have not gone to their aid;

Lord, be merciful:

**All forgive us our sin.**

Leader We have condoned evil and dishonesty and failed to strive for justice;

Lord, be merciful:

**All forgive us our sin.**

Leader We have heard the good news of Christ, but have failed to share it with others;

Lord, be merciful:

**All forgive us our sin.**

Leader We have not loved you with all our heart, nor our neighbours as ourselves;

Lord, be merciful:

**All forgive us our sin.**

Leader May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## COLLECT

Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Hearing God's Word to Us

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58: 1-12

PSALM 112: 1-10

Reader Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord and have great delight in his commandments!

**All Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

Reader Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last for ever.

**All Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

Reader It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

**All For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

Reader They will not be afraid of any evil rumours; their heart is right; they put their trust in the Lord.

**All Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

Reader They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast for ever; they will hold up their head with honour.

**All The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.**

Reader Let us pray: **God of light, teach us to love each other as you love us, that we may bring peace and joy to the world, and rejoice in the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2: 1-16

♪ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, praise to God.  
Alleluia, praise to God.  
Praises, high praises,  
We bring you, O God.  
Alleluia, praise to God.**

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 5: 13-20

**R: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ. / Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

SERMON

**CREED**

Leader Let us confess our faith, as we say,  
**All We believe in Jesus Christ, Our Saviour and liberator,  
the expression of God's redeeming and restoring love,  
the mark of humanness, source of courage, power, and  
love, God of God, light of light, ground of our humanity.**

**We believe that God resides in slums, lives in broken  
homes and hearts, suffers our loneliness, rejection, and  
powerlessness. But through death and resurrection God  
gives life, pride, and dignity, provides the content of our  
vision, offers the context of our struggle, promises  
liberation to the oppressor and the oppressed, hope to  
those in despair, vision to the blind.**

**We believe in the activity of the Holy Spirit who revives  
our decaying soul, resurrects our defeated spirits,  
renews our hope of wholeness and reminds us of our  
responsibility in ushering in God's new order here and  
now. Amen.**

*Source: Yong Ting Jin, In God's Image 1986*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Almighty God, you command us through your Son Jesus Christ to love one another, to strive for justice and peace, and to respect the dignity of every human being. We pray for ourselves, our church, and our world as we seek to follow in the footsteps of your Son. *Silence is kept.*

We pray for our world. Give your guidance and wisdom to all peacemakers, leaders, and all who promote nonviolent solutions to conflict. We pray for a swift and peaceful end to all violence and conflict in our world, that all your

people may know justice and enjoy the perfect freedom that only you can give.

Leader        Lord, in your mercy  
**All            hear our prayer.**

We pray for an end to prejudice throughout our communities, our country and the world. Help us to respect all people as your precious children and banish racism, sexism, and all other forms of discrimination from our hearts, our society, and our laws.

Leader        Lord, in your mercy  
**All            hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are most vulnerable in our world and for an end to the growing disparity between rich and poor and between peoples because of racial identity. Give us the grace and courage to strive for economic and racial justice and all that builds walls between your people.

Leader        Lord, in your mercy  
**All            hear our prayer.**

We pray for your Church and for the reconciliation of all people. Forgive our failure to admit our hypocrisy in how we treat one another, forgive us when our disparities of power undermine trust, and shape our lives with humility and mutual respect that we may be an instrument of your healing love.

Leader        Lord, in your mercy,  
**All            hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick (*we pray for.....*) and all who bear the burdens of pain, bereavement, and suffering in mind, body or spirit. Help us not to be indifferent to the pain and suffering of others. May all who suffer know the healing power of your presence, your love, and your peace.

Leader        Lord, in your mercy,  
**All            hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died and for the faithful in every generation who have worked for justice: for prophets who have called us to racial reconciliation, for martyrs who died because of hatred, and for all the communion of saints. Make us faithful to your call to proclaim your Good News, by word and example, and bring us at last into the glorious company

of the saints in light.

Leader        Lord, in your mercy  
**All            hear our prayer.**

We pray for ourselves and help us to make your ways known among all people. In the passion of protest and reform, give us open and receptive spirits. In the complexities of the issues we face, give us courageous hearts. Accept and fulfil our petitions, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### CANDLE LIGHTING

This month we have sought to celebrate and honour the contributions that people of African and Caribbean heritage have made to Canadian and global society. We also want to lament and remember the black voices and stories which were overlooked and marginalized.

##### *A candle is lit*

Let us light a candle to remember that God is love. There is no fear in love, perfect love casts out fear. Let us celebrate the love that God has for all God's creation.

**All    God of love, You created all human beings in your image and likeness. Bearing your image, you call on us to reflect your goodness, justice, and love to all the world. Remind us of our call to follow your Son and to speak out for justice, mercy, and compassion. As we come before you in prayer, teach us to respect your image in all human beings, and help us to defend your image in all human beings, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

##### *A candle is lit*

Let us light a candle to give thanks to God for Black men and women in every generation who have contributed to the growth of this country.

**All    Gracious God, We give you thanks for all who have built up this country through their dedication, their witness and their faith in you. We give you thanks for those who have inspired us and challenged our way of life. Grant us the power to be the people you want us to be and to do what you want us to do, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## *A candle is lit*

Let us light a candle to remember those who have been affected by the transatlantic enslavement of African peoples and all who today are affected by slavery and its legacy.

Let us pause to remember those who have been enslaved. We recall that for over 400 years, more than 15 million people were the victims of the transatlantic slave trade. During this time human beings made in the image of God were bought and sold, treated as property, and considered less than human.

Let us pause to remember the ways we continue in our world to treat others based on the financial profit we can derive from them: the persons who work in poor conditions and who are underpaid, the children who are forced to work and receive less than minimum wage, the migrant workers who are exploited.

Slavery still exists today. We remember the women who have been sold into slavery for prostitution. We remember the children who are sold into slavery left vulnerable by poverty. We remember persons who are enslaved because of their addictions.

**All      Gracious God, help us to regard all persons as made in your image. Create in us brave hearts to acknowledge and address our prejudices. Forgive the way we collude with silence and imprison others in it. Give us courage to speak words that liberate and heal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## *A candle is lit.*

We light a candle of hope. Hope because God is still at work in our world. We believe that love is stronger than all the ills of the world. The legacies of slavery still exist in our world, and persons from different ethnicities are still the recipients of racism and acts of discrimination. We are called to let the light of God's love shine in the world.

**All      God of justice and compassion let us commit ourselves to bear the light of the hope of our lives. By the power of your Spirit, you call us to be of one heart and mind and to the work of lament and action. From you comes power to give to others**



**the care we have ourselves received so that we, and all who love your world, may live in harmony and trust, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THE PEACE

Leader

God calls us to peace:

**All**

**in God's justice is our peace.**

Leader

Christ calls us to be God's people:

**All**

**in Christ is our peace.**

Leader

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All**

**and also with you.**

## THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

### THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

♪ OFFERTORY HYMN

Down By the Riverside

*Traditional Spiritual*

Gonna lay down my burden,  
down by the riverside,  
down by the riverside,  
down by the riverside;  
gonna lay down my burden,  
down by the riverside,

#### ***Refrain:***

and ain't gonna study war no more.

I ain't gonna study war no more,  
ain't gonna study war no more,  
ain't gonna study war no more.

I ain't gonna study war no more,  
ain't gonna study war no more,  
ain't gonna study war no more.

Gonna lay down my sword and shield,  
down by the riverside,  
down by the riverside,  
down by the riverside;

gonna lay down my sword and shield,  
down by the riverside,  
[refrain]

Gonna try on my long white robe,  
down by the riverside,  
down by the riverside,  
down by the riverside;  
gonna try on my long white robe,  
down by the riverside,  
[refrain]

#### THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of compassion and forgiveness, receive our offering this day, and make us one with him who is our peace, Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

#### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER #2 *(Supplementary Prayer for use within the Diocese of Toronto)*

Leader The Lord be with you.

**All And also with you.**

Leader Lift up your hearts.

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

Leader Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Leader Eternal God, Source of all being, we give you thanks and praise for your faithful love. You call us into friendship with you and one another to be your holy people, a sign of your presence in the world.

When those we trust betray us, unfailingly you remain with us. When we injure others, you confront us in your love and call us to the paths of righteousness. You stand with the weak, and those, broken and alone, whom you have always welcomed home, making the first last, and the last first. Therefore, we raise our voices with angels and archangels, forever praising you and singing:

#### ♪ SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

**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. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, O Holy One: when Hagar was driven into the wilderness you followed her and gave her hope. When Joseph was sold into bondage, you turned malice to your people's good. When you called Israel out of slavery, you brought them through the wilderness into the promised land.

When your people were taken into exile you wept with them by the river of Babylon and carried them home.

**All      Restore us, O God, let your face shine!**

Leader    At the right time you sent your Anointed One to stand with the poor, the outcast, and the oppressed. Jesus touched lepers, and the sick, and healed them. He accepted water from a woman of Samaria and offered her the water of new life. Christ knew the desolation of the cross and opened the way for all humanity into the redemption of your reconciling love.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, gave it to them, and said, "Take and 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."

Leader Loving and Holy One, recalling Christ's death and resurrection, we offer you these gifts, longing for the bread of tomorrow and the wine of the age to come. Therefore, we proclaim our hope.

**All      Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Leader    Pour out your Spirit on these gifts that through them you may sustain us in our hunger for your peace. We hold before you all whose lives are marked by suffering, our sisters and brothers. When we are broken and cast aside, embrace us in your love.

**All      Restore us, O God, let your face shine!**

Leader    Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O Source of all life, now and for ever.

**All      Amen.**

## ♪ THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader                      As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,  
**Our Father 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 for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD #6

Leader We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

**All God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light  
and life.**

THE COMMUNION

Leader The gifts of God for the People of God.

**All Thanks be to God.**

♪ AGNUS DEI

**Lamb of God You take away the sins of the world, Miserere nobis**

**Lamb of God You take away the sins of the world, Miserere nobis**

**Lamb of God You take away the sins of the world,**

**Dona nobis pacem**

**Dona nobis pacem.**

♪ COMMUNION HYMN

Let Us Break Bread Together

**Verse 1**

Let us break bread together on our knees

Let us break bread together on our knees

When I fall on my knees

With my face to the rising sun

O Lord have mercy on me

**Verse 2**

Let us drink wine together on our knees

Let us drink wine together on our knees

When I fall on my knees

With my face to the rising sun

O Lord have mercy on me

**Verse 3**

Let us praise God together on our knees

Let us praise God together on our knees

When I fall on my knees

With my face to the rising sun  
O Lord have mercy on me

**Verse 4**

Let us praise God together on our knees  
Let us praise God together on our knees  
When I fall on my knees  
With my face to the rising sun  
O Lord have mercy if You please

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Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

*African American Spiritual*

Refrain:

Swing low, sweet chariot,  
Coming for to carry me home.  
Swing low, sweet chariot,  
Coming for to carry me home.

I looked over Jordan, and what did I see  
Coming for to carry me home?  
A band of angels coming after me.  
Coming for to carry me home.  
[Refrain]

If you get there before I do,  
Coming for to carry me home,  
Tell all my friends I'm coming too,  
Coming for to carry me home.  
[Refrain]

The brightest day that ever I saw,  
Coming for to carry me home,  
When Jesus washed my sins away,  
Coming for to carry me home.  
[Refrain]

I'm sometimes up and sometimes down,  
Coming for to carry me home,  
But still my soul feels heavenly bound,  
Coming for to carry me home.

[Refrain]

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, in you we find peace beyond all telling. May we who share in this heavenly banquet be instruments of your peace on earth, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

## DOXOLOGY

Leader Glory to God,

**All Whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## A BENEDICTION FOR STANDING FIRM

God sees you and calls you by name. God calls you to stand firm in the face of oppression and injustice, to stand. May you stand firm then as the Holy Spirit enlivens your hope, as Jesus Christ renews your faith, as God enfolds you in love.

*Source: Claudio Carvalhaes 2020 Liturgies from Below, 462 Acts of Worship: Praying with People at the Ends of the World*

## THE BLESSING

Leader Let us go forth with the blessing of our all-loving God: God our Mother who holds us in our pain, God our brother, Jesus the Christ, who gives us courage to resist, And God the Spirit who binds us together in all that is free.

**All Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & BLACK HISTORY PRESENTATION (Diane Frans)

## ♪ HYMN

Lift Every Voice and Sing

*TEXT: James Weldon Johnson*

*MUSIC: J. Rosamond Johnson*

### Verse 1

Lift every voice and sing  
Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the listening skies;  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith

That the dark past has taught us;  
Sing a song full of the hope  
That the present has brought us,  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won

### **Verse 2**

Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chastening rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died.  
Yet, with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our parents sighed?  
We have come over a way  
That with tears has been watered;  
We have come treading our path  
Through the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past,  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

### **Verse 3**

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who hast by Thy might  
Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path we pray.  
Lest, our feet stray from the places,  
Our God, where we met Thee;  
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine  
Of the world, we forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand  
May we forever stand,  
True to our God true to our native land.

**LEADER** Let us go forth in peace with the living, disturbing God: To disrupt those who are comfortable, Comfort those who mourn, And walk alongside those who suffer. And all the people say:

**All Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**