

Sermon Musings
Isaiah 6:1-8 & Luke 5:1-11

And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed, and your sin is blotted out." -Isaiah 6:5-7

It occurs to me just now, after having always liked this iconic passage from Isaiah, that maybe the tongs and the live coals were compensatory like the Scarecrow's diploma, the Tin Man's heart-shaped watch and the Lion's medal in the movie *The Wizard of Oz*. Maybe it was just easier for the seraphim to do something to alleviate Isaiah's theophanic (*visible manifestation of personal encounter with a deity*) anxiety and perform a quick sin blotting rite than take the time to deal with a whole lot of explanation. How bad were Isaiah's sins anyway?

You've got to expect a glitch in communication though, when you realize you're in the presence of the Holy when two minutes ago you were just sitting in a boat with some other sweaty guy who then tells you to put the net down in the deep side of the boat just a few feet away. A few feet, a couple of minutes, and suddenly you're lying on the bottom of the boat zapped both by the radiance of the Divine and the excuse for the human person you realize you are when illuminated by that Divine Light.



Is Jesus messing with Peter? Let me put it this way; how often did Jesus mess with Peter? And how often was Jesus TEMPTED to mess with Peter and didn't? It seems to me it is our dinginess that makes us beloved. Peter's sins endeared him to Jesus and Peter's imperfections endear him to us, not just across a boat and in minutes but across millennia.

Our sins and imperfections are precious because they are the very substance of our transformation.

I like what Hasidic Rabbi the Kotzker Rebbe said. "Your holiness shall consist of being truly human, not angelic. God has plenty of angels. Besides, angels mess around too much."

I love the Epiphany season of Light! Enjoy your insights. ~Pastor Sheri



10785 Melody Drive, Northglenn, CO 80234 ~ 303-452-5478

*A Service for the Lord's Day
February 6, 2022 ~ 10:00 am
5th Sunday After Epiphany*

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

As the music begins, we invite you to use this time to make the transition from getting here to being here. Take these few minutes to silently prepare for worship and allow the Spirit to refresh you.

Prayer for the Day

With this new day, we open our eyes, and we pray: God inhabit our seeing. Live in our looking. Be our vision and our sight. Illumine us, that we may perceive you, know you, welcome you in all the ways you go hiding in this world.

Gathering Music

Maria Forlenza

Words of Welcome

Rev. Sheri Fry

Introit

Maria Forlenza

*Call to Worship

Liturgist Anna Bond

Leader: Creator God, you have blessed us by making yourself known in the wonder of the world around us! In times and season, in family and friends, even in birth and in death, we feel the rhythm of your love surrounding us.

All: We give thanks for your boundless energy, flowing to and through us by the power of your Spirit.

Leader: We give thanks for the creativity and courage that spring from your power at work within us.

All: Therefore, it's with confidence that we seek your presence for this hour of worship. Bring us home to your heart, O God, and fill us with new awareness of infinite care, coming from your Spirit. Through Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Parts of the service in **bold** are for everyone to speak in unison.
Parts with an asterisk * mean that all are to stand in body or in spirit.

*Lighting the Christ Candle (unison)

Anna Bond

**We give thanks for the light of hope – unrelenting and inexplicable.
We give thanks for the light of peace – strong and unafraid.
We give thanks for the light of joy – persistent and unpredictable.
We give thanks for the light of love – hot and holy.
Let the light we kindle go before us, strong in hope, wide in good will, inviting the day to come. Amen.**

*Opening Hymn #649

Amazing Grace

*Prayer of Confession (unison)

Rev. Sheri Fry

God Who Calls, we confess that we are not always listening. We jump ahead without thinking. We move forward without discernment. Forgive us for our impatience. Cultivate in us a listening heart. Inspire in us the desire to learn more from others. Help us to cast off the busy-ness of this world, the rapid pace and driven attitudes, and instead, help us to adopt Your grace, mercy, and kindness, in how we respond to others, to the needs of the world, and in following You. Amen.

*Assurance of God's Love

*Response of Praise

LISTENING FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Anna Bond

**Be light to our path.
Be hope to our world.
Be born in our hearts again this year. Amen**

First Lesson

Isaiah 6:1-8

Anna Bond

Response to Reading

**Leader: Listen to the voice of the Spirit speaking to the church.
All: Thanks be to God.**



GoodStuff@GoodShepherd



Your Church at Work

**FOOD
BANK**

Tuesday through Thursday 10:00 am - 11:45 am

Third Saturday of the month 9 am - 12 pm. Need donations of toilet paper, dry pet food, and bar soap.

The food bank served 83 households in January, consisting of 221 individuals. 59 of them were children, and 61 were seniors.

The Food Bank would like to have a few backpacks (new or gently used) for our homeless clients. See Becky Van Dyke.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Cathy Beck - February 5th

Lynn Brown-Jones - February 7th

Mary Archuleta - February 10th

Sue Wagner - February 11th

Jim McCarron - February 14th

Joys and Concerns



Please pray for those dealing with health issues: for Marion H.; Bill L.;

Jane; Haylee; Jason; Gil; Tammy Vaugh; and Maxine; for all those

grieving the loss of loved ones: for Jean Cook's family; Burton Kugler's

family; the Seibel family; and the Coleman family; and

for communities affected by COVID-19 and/or by human rights violations here in the

United States and throughout the world; and for our church, that it may thrive as it

brings the good news to our area.

Opportunities This Week

Monday - Men's Shed 10 am - noon
Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:10 - 7:30 pm

Tuesday - ESL Class 6 - 7:30

Wednesday - Choir Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:15 pm

Thursday - Mission Committee 10 am
ESL Class 6 - 7:30

Opportunities Later this Month

Next Sunday - Quarterly Luncheon after church

Did you know? The Emmanuel International Church rents our building every Sunday night from 5-7 pm and has attended concerts of ours.

Needed: Companion for Elderly Woman

A friend of Good Shepherd (former member) Karen K., recently moved her elderly mother into her home. Karen needs someone 2 days/week (Wednesday and Friday) 8-9 hours each day. Karen lives near Northglenn High School. Her phone number is 720-341-5346.

Anthem

Touch Me, Jesus
by Ruth G. Zwall and Evelyn F. Tarner

Chancel Choir

Second Lesson

Luke 5:1-11

Rev. Sheri Fry

Sermon

Push Out into Deep Water

Moment of Silent Reflection

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

*Hymn #170

You Walk arlong Our Shoreline

Offering Ourselves and our Gifts

Offertory

Maria Forlenza

*Doxology #606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

God, you have so greatly loved us, long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us. Give us grace that in everything we may yield ourselves, our wills and our works, a continual thank offering to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Great Thanksgiving

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 God thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Gracious God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You have been faithful to us through all generations and continue to speak to us today. We praise You for this table of love You spread in the world as a sign of Your love for all people. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

We will share the Sacrament of Communion with the Elders passing the Bread and the Juice on trays to the congregation. The Presbyterian tradition does not include a specific rite for first communion. Our parents decide when their children are ready to participate.

Communion Music

Maria Forlenza

*Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

Gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and earth. You have fed us with the bread of life and renewed us for your service. Help us, who have shared Christ's body and received his cup, to be faithful disciples, so that our daily living may reflect your presence among us, and our love be your love, reaching out into the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING IN GOD'S LOVE

*Closing Hymn #726 *Will You Come and Follow Me*

*Charge and Benediction

*Benediction Response (*unison*) *Surely the Presence*

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. I can feel his mighty power and his grace. I can hear the brush of angel's wings I see glory on each face; surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Postlude

Maria Forlenza

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