

**Trinitarian Congregational Church**  
**TakeOut**  
**Epiphany 4 B**  
**January 31, 2021**

**Bells** <https://youtu.be/-6qZ9A6GFik>

**Announcements**

**Prelude** "Be Thou My Vision"  
Traditional Irish melody, Arr. by Joel K. Boyd  
<https://youtu.be/9RG9xWdXa6c>

**Call to Worship** Sue McGowan  
Rosemary Dawson

One: Great are the works of God, and greatly to be praised.  
God's righteousness endures forever.

**All: We come together as a people of faith and hope.**  
**We give thanks to God with our whole hearts.**

One: God is gracious and merciful and trustworthy.  
At all times, God is true to his covenant.

**All: God is holy and glorious, worthy of our reverence.**  
**We can count on God's righteousness and faithfulness.**

One: Reverence for God is the beginning of wisdom.  
All who seek God in humility gain true understanding.

**All: We turn to God, that we may learn his ways.**  
**We call on God to empower our worship and service.**

**Hymn** "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"  
<https://youtu.be/rlhdsz-JcR4>

## Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre-  
 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly  
 3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de-  
 4. Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me a-

5 a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy  
 reign - eth, Shelters thee un - der His wings, yea, so  
 fend thee; Sure-ly His good-ness and mer - cy here  
 dore Him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

10 health and sal-va - tion! All ye who hear, Now to His  
 gen - tly sustain - eth! Hast thou not seen, How thy de-  
 dai - ly at-tend thee. Pon-der a - new What the Al-  
 prais - es be-fore Him. Let the A - men Sound from His

*Baptist Hymnal 1991 14*  
 WORDS: German Hymn, Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.  
 MUSIC (LOBE DEN HERREN, Irregular): *Stralsund Gesangbuch*, 1665; harm. W. Sterndale Bennett, 1816-1875

## Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

16 tem-ple draw near; Praise Him in glad ad-o - ra - tion.  
 sires e'er have been Grant-ed in what He or-dain - eth?  
 might-y can do, If with His love He befriend thee.  
 peo-ple a - gain, Glad - ly for aye we a-dore Him.

## Gathering Prayer

Sue McGowan

**Still-Speaking God, we praise you for continually making yourself known to the world. We thank you for the One who came among us to proclaim your way. We ask you to help us recognize that voice today among the competing claims of our day. Raise up in our midst authentic witnesses to your truth. Keep us from presuming to know your message without careful listening or speak your word without discerning the Spirit. Keep us attentive to the cries of the suffering and the challenges of the oppressed. Arouse us again that we may heed your call and give our best in your service. Amen.**

## Gloria Patri

<https://youtu.be/OLz3R1hnUjs>

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, reign without end. Amen, amen.

## Scriptures

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Sue McGowan

<sup>15</sup> The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup> This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." <sup>17</sup> Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup> I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. <sup>19</sup> Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup> But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

Mark 1:21-28

Rosemary Dawson

<sup>21</sup> They went to Capernaum; and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup> They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup> Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup> and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God". <sup>25</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him." <sup>26</sup> And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup> They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." <sup>28</sup> At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

## Special Music

"I Surrender All"

W.S. Weeden, Arr. Phillip Keveren.

<https://youtu.be/GFrL-PaTIKA>

This form must be signed and notarized. Your license and registration, please. Wear a mask, wash your hands, keep 6 feet apart. These are all the words of authority. From parents to presidents we live with the realities of authority. Sometimes we may need it and appreciate it. But there are other times when we resist it and resent it. But what we can't do is simply ignore it.

Today in our gospel lesson we are confronted with authority. Jesus comes to the synagogue of Capernaum and is welcomed into the mix of worship and teaching. There's nothing unusual about that. But it soon was to become anything but ordinary. Jesus' message was not the usual boring sermon. Jesus' words were astonishing. They were compelling.

Jesus spoke with certainty and conviction. As Mark describes it "he taught them as one having authority, and not like the scribes". While the teachers of the law did the seminary thing, relying on expert commentaries and theological precedents, Jesus spoke in a different manner... and with a different message. He spoke as someone who knows the truth, regardless of what others may have said. When people heard him they knew that Jesus was speaking the truth.

So what is this teaching that so astonished Jesus' hearers? We don't know. Not a word of Jesus' teaching here at Capernaum was written down for us. We have no clue about what he said that made people sit up and listen. Now that may seem strange, but Mark did not tell us what Jesus said for one very simple reason. He did not want us to get distracted. Mark is not interested in the preaching. Mark wants us to recognize the preacher. Mark highlights in big bold silence that Jesus' authority did not come from what was said but from who he is. Jesus had the authority of God. He had been ordained directly at his baptism when God said "you are my beloved son." Jesus did not speak for God; he spoke as if he was God. And that simply astonished people.

And almost as a proof of his authority, suddenly a crazed man within the synagogue interrupts Jesus' words with a statement of his own. "What have you to do with us, Jesus... I know who you are- the Holy One of God." Immediately Jesus silences this unclean spirit and frees this man. We are tempted to get distracted again and ask all sorts of questions about demon possession. But that is not at all why Mark shares this part of the story. Mark points us once again to the authority of Jesus. The people were even more astonished and wondered "What is this? A new teaching! And with such authority! He commands even unclean spirits, and they obey him."

The simple truth is that as wise and knowledgeable someone may be about Scripture it does not amount to a hill of beans if there is no power behind it. Jesus spoke with authority and Jesus acted with authority. When Jesus cast out this unclean spirit he was demonstrating the power that made his words valid. And as good as Jesus' words were that day, they became great when the people saw the power that stood behind them.

Mark shares this story with us because he wants us to join the crowd; to see who Jesus really is, and to wonder what meaning Jesus has for our lives. Very often we are willing to acknowledge Jesus as a good teacher, a good man who was wise and compassionate. But Mark is saying Jesus is a whole lot more. Jesus is someone to be reckoned with. If the story is true, if the authority of Jesus is real, if he speaks with the voice of God, and acts with the power of God, then what does it mean in my life? How am I to respond? Mark doesn't tell us; he simply lays before us the claims of Christ and the evidence of His authority and then waits to see what we will do.

What will you do? Our world is filled with voices of authority, each bickering for our obedience. Gods, you might say, longing for our devotion. But there is only One in this world who has been acknowledged as the Holy One of God. There is only one who has proclaimed eternal truth. There is only one who has the power to reign. There is only one who has the right to our devotion. And he leaves it for us to decide how we will respond. What will your response be?

Amen.

**Hymn**

Rise, Shine, You People

(New words to the tune 'Father Almighty Bless Us with Thy Blessing)

<https://youtu.be/oG0BOak8B0U>

## Rise, Shine, You People!

1. Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered  
 2. See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;  
 3. Come, ce - le - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,  
 4. Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.

our hu - man stor - y; God in him is cen - tered.  
 he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing.  
 your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing.  
 Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us.

He comes to us, by death and sin sur -  
 All men and wo - men, who by guilt are  
 To all the world go out and tell the  
 Tell how the Spi - rit calls from ev - ery

round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.  
 driv - en, now are for - giv - en.  
 stor - y of Je - sus' glor - y.  
 na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.  
 © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House,  
 admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Tune: INTEGER VITAE 11.11.11.5.  
 Friedrich F. Flemming (1778-1813)

## **Joys and Concerns**

As you meet with God in prayer, please lift up the joys and concerns shared through the Trumpet Blast. God is eager to be your help and strength, to listen to you and meet your needs. Prayer is a gift we can always use. If you would like the church to pray for you please contact pastor Rosemary or Michele Lawler.

## **Prayers of the People**

Great God, we come before you today in awe of your authority and power, revealed in all your words and actions. We thank you for the amazing words Jesus spoke, and his power to bring them to life. And we thank you for your Spirit who continues to reveal your truth and power to us. O God, we long to live true to the greatness of your authority and so we come seeking the grace we need to be your holy people.

We pray for your church and for this congregation. May this be a place where your majesty is revealed to all people, and your goodness is revealed through us to the world. We pray for our leaders, that they may recognize the true source of power and may be faithful to bring your peace and justice to the nations. We pray as well for all who need your strength this day - the discouraged, the struggling and the troubled. Grant your aid to the ill, the mourning and the needy. We also lift up before you the needs of... and we thank you for ..... Lead us, your people, that we may be messengers of your truth and servants of your power among our community and throughout the world.

We praise you, Wondrous God, for the fullness of your glory and power and grace, through Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray...

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Choral Response**

[https://youtu.be/IAivVHv\\_mbc](https://youtu.be/IAivVHv_mbc)

## Offering

God's praises have been sung and God's word has been heard.  
Now we must respond to the claims of Christ.  
Our offerings are one way  
    we acknowledge God's authority in our lives,  
    and commit ourselves to his service.  
Let us dedicate our gifts in faith.

Our offerings express our commitment to you, O God.  
Through them we acknowledge the authority of Christ,  
    the importance of your word and the value of your ministry.  
Bless our offerings and our lives,  
    that we may serve you faithfully and well.     Amen.

## Doxology

<https://youtu.be/5I7PEGUPAXQ>

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
praise him all creatures here below,  
praise him above ye heavenly hosts,  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

## Hymn

Ye Servants of God  
<https://youtu.be/tVjfhkZWL1g>



## Ye Servants of God

1. Ye ser-vants of God, your Mas-ter pro-claim, And  
 2. God rul-eth on high, al-might-y to save; And  
 3. Sal-va-tion to God who sits on the throne, Let  
 4. Then let us a-dore and give Him His right, All

5  
 pub-lish a-broad His won-der-ful name; The  
 still He is nigh, His pre-sence we have; The  
 all cry a-loud and hon-or the Son: The  
 glo-ry and pow'r, all wis-dom and might; All

9  
 name all-vic-tor-ious of Je-sus ex-tol; His  
 great con-gre-ga-tion His tri-umph shall sing, As-  
 prais-es of Je-sus the an-gels pro-claim, Fall  
 hon-or and bless-ing, with an-gels a-bove, And

This tune in a lower key, No. 631, in a higher key, No. 16.

*Baptist Hymnal 1991* 589

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

MUSIC (LYONS 10.10.11.11): William Gardner's *Sacred Melodies*, 1815; attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737-1806

## Ye Servants of God

13  
 king-dom is glo-ri-ous and rules o-ver all.  
 crib-ing sal-va-tion to Je-sus our King.  
 down on their fac-es and wor-ship the Lamb.  
 thanks nev-er-ceas-ing, and in-fi-nite love.

## **Common Commission**

**Let us go forth into the world in peace, being of good courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, strengthening the fainthearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all persons, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

## **Benediction**

Go now into the world

May the God who said ‘let light shine in the darkness’  
make his light shine in our hearts  
so that we may see the glory of God  
which shines in the face of Jesus Christ.                      2 Cor 4:6 adj

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

## **Postlude**

“Lead Me, Lord”  
Samuel Wesley, Arr. by Fred Bock.  
<https://youtu.be/Ts0ordzJU2A>

Music provided by Chris Harris and Lynne Walker