



Elijah's ancient words
from under the broom tree

St. John's
December 31, 2023

Welcome

We are so happy you are with us. Please add your voice and heart to the prayers and music. Help others find a place and greet the person next to you as we prepare to worship together. Please stand and sit as you are comfortable.

Today is the **first Sunday after Christmas**, as well as being **New Year's Eve**. You will hear these underlying seasonal themes during the service, but the emphasis of the liturgy will be on the I Kings reading during which Elijah prays for death under **the broom tree**.

Our guest preacher today is **The Reverend Camie Dewey** from St. Mark's in Casper. Camie is on the Standing Committee for the diocese of Wyoming and is here simply to make acquaintances and deepen friendships in our diocese.

The service was put together by another of our friends, **The Reverend Lara Gilbert**, Canon for Congregational Development. She based this liturgy on the place of Anafora, a spiritual oasis in the wilderness desert of Egypt; a place to spend time in prayer and to be nurtured by the uplifting presence of God. Our worship can provide a taste of that oasis in times of spiritual wilderness.

Next Week: Epiphany

Epiphany is a celebration of God manifesting as the infant Jesus and revealing Himself to the world. The holiday also marks the day the Magi, or the three kings, visited the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. The Epiphany is always on January 6. This year there are six Sundays after the Epiphany; the last Sunday is February 11.

SOURCES

Hebrew Bible and Psalm: *The Hebrew Bible: A Translation with Commentary*, Copyright © 2019 by Robert Alter, WW Norton & Company

Gospel: *Holy Bible*, New International Version, NIV Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.

Affirmation: adapted from Nathan Nettleton (©2000) laughingbird.net.

Eucharist: adapted from multiple sources: *Celtic Daily Prayer II*, Copyright © 2015 The Northumbria Community Trust; *Eucharistic Prayers* © 2016 Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher, Eerdmans Publishing; *The Didache* with commentary by Douglas J. Michalak, MLCET Translation © 2017 Douglas J. Michalak

Lord's Prayer: *The Didache* with commentary by Douglas J. Michalak, MLCET Translation © 2017 Douglas J. Michalak

Order of Service: adapted by Lara Gilbert from *An Order for Celebrating the Holy Eucharist*, Book of Common Prayer, Copyright © 1986 by The Church Pension Fund.

Ministers

Altar Guild	Laura Greathouse
Sound	Robert Rumbolz
Hospitality Greeter	Susan McEvoy
Liturgy Greeter	Kathy Riley
Worship Leader	Charlotte Patrick
Readers	Steve Nickles
	Dylan McEvoy
Preacher	Camie Dewey
Intercessor	Tim Glatzer
Presider	Megan Nickles
Communion Servers	Barb Morales
	Jim Morales
Communion Bread	Charlotte Patrick
Coffee Hour	Megan & Steve Nickles

Prayers

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Rwanda
 Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Diocesan Standing Committee; Diocesan Staff;
 Wyoming Daughters of the King

<p>Nelson & Nancy; Carolyn & Family; Laurel & Rusty; Hugh B. & Marge; Hunter, Charlotte & Mike; Lee & Kelly; Richmond & Rich; Shirley & Deb; Richard & Jennifer; Tim & Lynnae; Margie & Josey; Bobbi & Bentley; Tim & Alex; Bob & Charlotte; Cynthia, Diana, Carra, Deb S., Rob R., Kathy E., Martha, Tammy, Rob K., Bobby B., Larry, Irene, Nancy, Alan, Katy, Marlynn, Sue, Kahli, Ron and Jane</p>	<p>Justin, Jacob, Patrick, Reece, Coleman, and Bryce who are serving in the military. Ann, Josephine and Don who reside in care centers.</p>
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Celebrations

Birthday: Jim McEvoy—1st
 Anniversary: Frank Dulin & John Cordner—1st; Cynthia & Martin Garhart—3rd

We Gather in God's Name

PRELUDE "Sing We Now of Christmas," Ashley Serena.

OPENING HYMN



1. Here in this place new light is stream - ing,
2. We are the young— our lives are a mys - t'ry,
3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter,
4. Not in the dark of build - ings con - fin - ing,



Now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way,
We are the old— who yearn for your face,
Here we will take the bread of new birth,
Not in some heav - en, light - years a - way, But



See in this space our fears and our dream - ings,
We have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
Here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
Call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
Now is the King - dom, now is the day.



Gath - er us in— the lost and for - sak - en,
Gath - er us in— the rich and the haugh - ty,
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion,
Gath - er us in and hold us for ev - er,



Gath - er us in— the blind and the lame;
Gath - er us in— the proud and the strong;
Give us to eat the bread that is you;
Gath - er us in and make us your own;



Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
Give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,
Nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
Gath - er us in— all peo - ples to - geth - er,



We shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
Give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
Lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950
Tune: GATHER US IN, Irregular; Marty Haugen, b.1950
© 1982, GIA Publications, Inc.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of Generosity and Abundance,
Meet us here as we journey, following your Way.

We hunger for the Bread of Life.

Make us one with you in this time and in this place,
and in your kingdom forevermore.

Amen.

We Proclaim and Respond to the Word of God

HEBREW BIBLE: 1 Kings 19:4-8

After the Reading

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN

We stand

Refrain

Bread of life, hope of the world, Je-sus Christ, our broth - er:
feed us now, give us life, lead us to one an - oth - er.

*Verses

You are the hope of all, our prom-ise and our call, Ra-diant
light in our dark - ness, truth to set us free.

to Refrain

*Verses 1-2, Advent; verses 3-5, Christmas. © 1982, 1987, Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

GOSPEL: John 6:35-38

After the Reading

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We stand.

We believe in God,
Creator of all that is and shall be,
redeemer of all that is less than it could be,
sustainer of our living, our loving, our being.
We believe in the cross of Christ,
the symbol of hatred and cruelty,
yet redeemed as a sign of God's eternal Love.
We believe in Christ's suffering,
all our hurts, torments and betrayals
magnified in the purity of love,
and embraced that we might be free.
We believe in the Bread of Life,
broken and shared,
opening our eyes to the presence of Christ,
strengthening us for the journey.
We believe in the joy of the Holy Spirit,
poured into the hearts of those
who live courageously,
with integrity and grace.
We believe in the Gospel,
Good News offered to us in Jesus,
who was despised by the world
but leads us in the Way of life.
We believe in Love,
the very being of God,
a gift unsurpassed;
a mystery fulfilled when all else is relinquished.
We believe in light shining from darkness,
in mercy vanquishing bitterness,
in life bursting free where death has reigned.
Amen.

We Pray for the World and the Church

Ever present God, we come before you to pray for the needs of your Creation.

We pray for the Church, that it will truly be the Body of Christ in the world...

We come to the Bread of Life, **may all Creation taste and see.**

We pray for the nations of the world, that the Love of Christ will be the measure of good governance...

We come to the Bread of Life, **may all Creation taste and see.**

We pray for the earth; that it be healed...

We come to the Bread of Life, **may all Creation taste and see.**

We pray for our homes and our neighbors; that our presence in both our familiar places and the places to which we go reveals Your glory...

We come to the Bread of Life, **may all Creation taste and see.**

We pray for all who suffer; that Your presence will be felt as comfort and healing...

We come to the Bread of Life, **may all Creation taste and see.**

We pray for all who have died in the hope of Christ's promise; may we be a comfort for those who mourn...

We come to the Bread of Life, **may all Creation taste and see.**

God of all Creation, by the power of your Holy Spirit, transform our hearts and minds and set our feet in Your Way.

Amen.

We Confess

As members of the Body of Christ, we come seeking forgiveness, and God will meet us and renew us, for God is gracious and always ready to forgive.

**Merciful God, we have followed a path of foolish things,
and been reluctant to live our calling as your people.**

**We have failed to support one another
and to be who you have created us to be.**

Deliver us from our self-concern and return us to your Way.

Through Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen.

God has promised that forgiveness is ours; and that promise is true now.

Rejoice and be glad, for God's mercy is great, and our sins are forgiven.

Amen.

We Exchange the Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

We may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

We Speak of Community

We Make Eucharist

OFFERTORY

Let us bring all that we have and all that we are to the table of our Lord.

MUSIC

“Somerset Wassail,” Philip Boulding.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is with us.

The Spirit is here.

God is with us.

The Spirit draws us closer.

As we share this meal.

All are welcome.

God of All, we thank you for your Presence in Creation.

From the wealth of this Earth, you nourish and strengthen us;
even at those times when our own strength is failing.

Just as you sent to Elijah food and drink in the desert
so you provide for us today out of Your abundance.

Therefore, we join the saints and angels, echoing Your praise
throughout the world:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, Living God, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. In him you send us the bread that comes down from heaven; the living bread that eternally satisfies all hunger. He healed the sick and offered life to sinners, promising that whoever eats this bread will live forever.

When Jesus was at supper with his friends, he took the bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them saying, "Take and eat this, my body broken for you. Eat it, remembering I have given my whole self for you."

After supper he took the cup. Again, he gave you thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "This cup is the sign of a new covenant. My blood is shed for each of you. Drink of this cup, remembering my love for you. And never be ashamed of your love for me."

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Generous God, let your Holy Spirit move in power over us and over these earthly gifts of bread and wine that we may have communion in the body and blood of Christ, and that in him we may become one.

Faithful God, usher every willing heart into the banquet of your kingdom, that all of Creation may share the wonder of your mercy.

Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

AMEN.

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together as Jesus taught:

**Our Father, who is in heaven,
holy is Your name.**

May your kingdom continually come.

May your will be continuously done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us today the bread of our inheritance

and forgive us what we owe you

as we also forgive others for what they owe us.

And do not lead us into a place where we may be tempted

but deliver us from evil,

in order to show that yours is the kingdom,

the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.

We Break the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

We thank you, our Father, for the fruit of the Holy Vine of David your servant, which you made known to us in Jesus Your Son.

We thank you, our Mother, for the life and knowledge which you made known to us through Jesus Your Son; to you be the glory forever.

Even as this broken bread was once scattered over the hills as seed and was brought forth from the earth to become one, so let your people be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your Kingdom; for yours is the glory and the power through Jesus our Messiah forever.

We Share the Gifts of God

Please come to the table, whether you are single, married or divorced, drinking, using or sober, abled, disabled, or ill, gay, straight, or discovering, wealthy, getting by or in debt. Christ meets us all.

We approach the altar beginning with those sitting in the last rows; they shall be first. Approach the rail from the left aisle and take a cup; used cups go on the tray on the right. You may receive only bread or only wine. Our Eucharistic bread is handmade and robust. If you prefer a wafer, please tell your server.

Receiving the bread and wine is a central act of worship in the Episcopal Church.

MUSIC

“The Coventry Carol,” SWell Melodies.

“Ring Out Wild Bells,” Crofts Family Band.

We Give Thanks

We stand.

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
from whose love nothing can part us,
we thank You for the Bread of Life,
Jesus Your Son.**

**This bread that sustains us,
and provides us nourishment
on our pilgrim journey today
and all the tomorrows to come.
May we live as your holy people.
Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN *There is no introduction*

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 un - der the sha - dow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone;
5 Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears all our years a - way;

1 our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
2 suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
3 from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.
4 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
5 they fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the o - pening day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,

be thou our guide while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.; para. of Psalm 90. Music: *St. Anne*, melody att. William Croft (1678-1727), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

We Are Sent

You are called to travel on the same road,
and in the same direction.
Stay together, both outwardly and inwardly.
You have one Master - one God and Creator of all,
who rules over all,
and is present in all.
Let everything you are and think and do
be imbued by the One Bread.
Let us go forth on the path that is set before us,
We are companions on the Way.
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

“Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn,” Brent Holl.