



January 24, 2016

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Readings: **1Corinthians 12:12- 31a,**
Luke 4:14-21

Power Play

When you hear the word “power,” what comes to mind? Significant influence or wealth, as in one who strides down the “corridors of power”? Or perhaps great physical strength, the powerful front line of the Carolina Panthers, for instance?



I was struck by the line introducing the passage we’re reading this week: “Then Jesus, filled by the *power* of the Holy Spirit,....” According to Luke, Jesus does what he does and says what he says precisely because he is filled with power, great power, the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is the first scene Luke offers to describe Jesus’ public ministry and, as we’ve seen before, first things matter in the Gospels as they set the tone and name the priorities for the narrative to come. So

clearly it’s important to Luke for us to know that Jesus comes filled with power and, perhaps even more, it’s important to Luke for us to know just what this kind of power looks like.

Which is what makes his choice of these excerpts from Isaiah so interesting, because if there’s one thing all the people referenced by this passage have in common, it’s that they are definitely *not* the powerful people in the world.

Think about it: Jesus brings good news to the poor, captive, blind, and oppressed. These aren’t the powerful, they are the outcasts, the ones you’ve been trained to feel sorry for as you pass them by at the street corner even as you give a prayer of thanks that their lot is not yours. These are the folks, that is, you may pity, but not admire. Yet Jesus says he comes for them.

All of which challenges our typical notions of power. Power – at least the power of the Holy Spirit, the power, that is, of God – is demonstrated not by any accomplishments or attributes one claims for one’s own self but only through what it accomplishes for others. Power is power only when it sets others free, only when it builds up others, only when used for the betterment of those around you.

How peculiar, when you think of it, and how different from the notions of power that surround us. Indeed, the power of God at work in Jesus pushes us to reconfigure our notions of power and re-orient our attention away from ourselves to those around us.

But it does one other thing, too. In this first sermon of Jesus, we cannot avoid the conclusion that perhaps one of the chief powers of Jesus is to declare that God sees *all* of us – not just those the world sees, but everyone. Because the very fact that Jesus’ sermon is all about what God will do for the least of those in the world tells us that God gives special attention to those whom the world doesn’t want to see.

There has been a lot of talk, this year, about the #BlackLivesMatter movement. Any number of politicians, pundits, and opponents to the movement have questioned why the focus on *black* lives; why not, that is, say that *all* lives matter. I get it. The focus on black lives somehow seems to imply that those lives matter more. But I don’t think that’s the case at all. I think it’s more a matter of the movement calling attention to the fact that the way this world and culture acts makes one think that we have collectively decided that black lives *don’t* matter, at least not as much as white ones do, and so they are calling attention to this through their very name and assertion.

A colleague of mine put it this way: “When you see a house on fire and direct the firefighters to that house, you’re not saying that all the other houses in the neighborhood don’t matter; you’re saying this one *especially* matters because it’s on fire.” My colleague is an African American pastor, I should add, who lives in a predominantly white neighborhood and has on various occasions been pulled over, though not for speeding. When he asks why, the officers say they’re just doing their job. “Right now,” he added, “our house is on fire.”

Jesus, I think, is doing something similar. Filled by the power of the Holy Spirit, he testifies to the fact that God’s power is always seen as peculiar, odd, and uncomfortable by the world because it focuses on those the world has overlooked, forgotten, or discarded. He knows that we act in a way to make it seem like some lives matter and some don’t, but proclaims that those distinctions fade away in the face of grace, that God sees all, loves all, and intends and promises to redeem all.

- David Lose

This Week at Inca



Refugee Sponsorship –

If you would like to support the Diocese of Niagara 140th Anniversary Campaign, envelopes are available on the greeter's table. Also, below is a template of a letter you may wish to use to solicit support from people around you- friends, family, colleagues

Dear Friends and Family,

As you know, the global refugee crisis is at historical proportions. My church, Church of the Incarnation, is stepping up and has made an application to sponsor a refugee family and then assist them in getting re-settled somewhere here in southern Ontario. We need to fund raise approximately \$25,000 to privately sponsor a family or 4-5 people and to date, without much effort we have raised about \$21,000. This application is not associated with the 25,000 refugees that the Federal Government has committed to bringing in. We expect our application to take about 12 to 16 months. We will certainly keep you informed as we move through this process

If you have ever wondered how you personally can help a refugee family that is in need of a home, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to my church, Church of the Incarnation. Every little bit helps! I will be collecting cheques made out to "Church of the Incarnation" between now and February 14, 2016. Please write, "Refugee Fund" in the notes section of your cheque.

Please contact me if you need any more information.

Thank you for your consideration and support.



Parish Council Meeting

Sunday, January 24 after the 10 o'clock service.

Please send your reports to Jim Stevens before Friday at 5pm

Vestry Meeting

Sunday February 7, 2016

Reports must be sent to Margot at office@incarnationchurch.ca by January 26th please

NEW ENVELOPES – we're implementing a new weekly donation envelope system. Those currently using envelopes will be contacted in the next few weeks about making the switch. If you're ready for a new set, contact Margot at office@incarnationchurch.ca. Have you considered pre-authorized payments? A safe convenient way to ensure the church has consistent funding. See office for more details if you'd like to sign up.



For Social Justice and
the Environment

Oakville Book Reading Club for the Environment and Social Justice,

Thursdays, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm, runs until February 11

We meet in the Chapel it's not too late to join the discussion! Contact Mervyn Russell for more information mervicia@gmail.com

First book: This Changes Everything, by Naomi Klein



Choir Practice –

The choir rehearses every Wednesday at 7:30. Share your voice, all welcome.

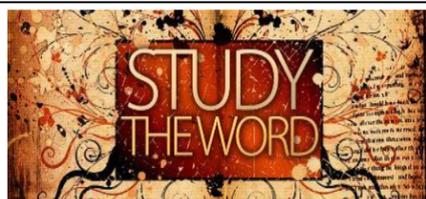
No Choir practice on January 27



Wing and a Prayer – Thursday, January 28, 2016!

We meet at 6:30pm at Monaghan's. Cost: \$25 per person including food and drink. RSVP Rob Moniuk (Robert@Moniuk.ca).

Everyone is welcome!



Lenten Bible Study –begins Thursday February 18th

Four weeks, 1:30-3:00pm in the chapel. The focus will be the arrest, trial and execution of Jesus, chapters 18 and 19 of St. John's Gospel. Anyone and everyone is invited. No previous knowledge of the bible is required. Contact Mervyn Russell for more information mervicia@gmail.com



Contemplative Fire – Sunday, February 21, 8:00pm.

Are you looking for time to reflect, meditate and recharge your spiritual life? Each meeting begins with a communal sharing of food followed by quiet and intentional reflection in the gathering area. The response to this has been very encouraging. We continue to see new faces at each meeting and look forward to growing this community.

For more information, please speak to Michael. All are welcome.

Refugee Sponsorship CONCERT

Love Lives: A Refugee Sponsorship Concert
Saturday, February 27, 7:p.m., Church of the Incarnation
Details to follow, please mark your calendar!



Youth Group Events- for info contact Phil Carver at incayouthprogram@gmail.com

Mark Jan 31st in your calendar; we are heading to the movies at Film.ca to see Star Wars. We will leave after church and then parents can pick up after the movie on Speers Rd.



Dare We Mention "Christmas Market" in January?

Before storing your decorations for another year, please consider donating excess Christmas ornaments for our next market. We are looking for items in good, sellable condition for a "Christmas" table. We are also looking for Christmas jewellery and small jewellery boxes. Please leave your donations in the box in the office.

Community News



**Anglican Diocese
of Niagara**

Bishop's Diploma Course on Ethics, Winter 2016
Please see bulletin board for more details

HARRRP 5th Annual Dancing on Sunshine Gala, February 26, 2016
Liuna Station Hamilton, for information call: 905-544-0050



february 20, 2016

St. Mathew's House – The Coldest Night of the Year Walk, Saturday, February 20,

St. Matthew's House is hosting the national walk for the homeless and hungry in downtown Hamilton. This year St. Matthew's House is partnering with Mission Services of Hamilton. Donations collected for the walk will support both organizations equally. At St. Matthew's House, the proceeds will be used to support the work done at their two food banks.

Contact Genevieve Wong 905-523-5546 x 227 or gwong@stmatthewshouse.ca.



Halton Green Screens at FILM.CA cinemas 7pm, second Thursday of the month

Feb 11 – *Blackfish* - the story of a killer whale who killed several people while in custody
Mar 10 – *Bottled Life* - the truth about Nestle's business with water



Camp Erin June 10-12, 2016

A therapeutic bereavement camp for children and teenagers who have experienced the death of someone close. Hamilton. More details at www.kemphospice.org

This & That



Volunteers Urgently Needed as Coffee Hour hosts

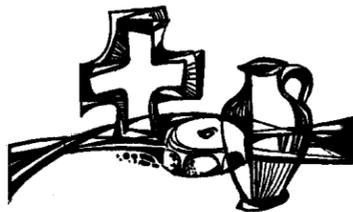
Other positions include: altar prep, greeters, hosts and coffee preparation. Youth can gain some volunteer high school hours. Training will be provided.

Contact Claudine Boulert, at boulert@rogers.com for more information, or call 905-825-2851.



Changes to Order of Service or Bulletin News - Any changes need to be sent to the office by Tuesday, noon. office@incarnationchurch.ca

Nametags let people know who you are and make it helpful for people to put names to faces, especially for newcomers



Receiving Communion

All people at Incarnation are invited to receive the bread and wine at communion. The bread is received from the priest who stands between the servers who offer wine from the common cup; choose whatever side is free. You may choose to receive from an individual wine cups available to the left of the altar. Take one, consume the wine and replace the empty cup in the same spot. We hope this provides an inclusive approach to communion whereALL are welcome.

VOLUNTEER!	January 24	January 31
Bread Making	B. Gowing	P. Henley
Altar Prep	W. MacDougall	B. Hanna-Morrison
Coffee	Bowden	Hutchinson-Henley
Coffee	Hickey	Lockhart
Host	S. Huchinson	S. Sinclair
Reader 1	J. Lockart	M. Stevens
Gospel	L. MacLauchlan	A. MacNaughton
Prayers	K. Pitt	J. Bowden
Server 1	B. Hanna-Morrison	A. Turner-Sommer
Server 2	J. Stevens	W. Burk
Wine Cups	E. Lorimer	C. Boulert
Counting	J. Raitt	W. MacDougall