



WESTMINSTER
CHURCH OF DETROIT

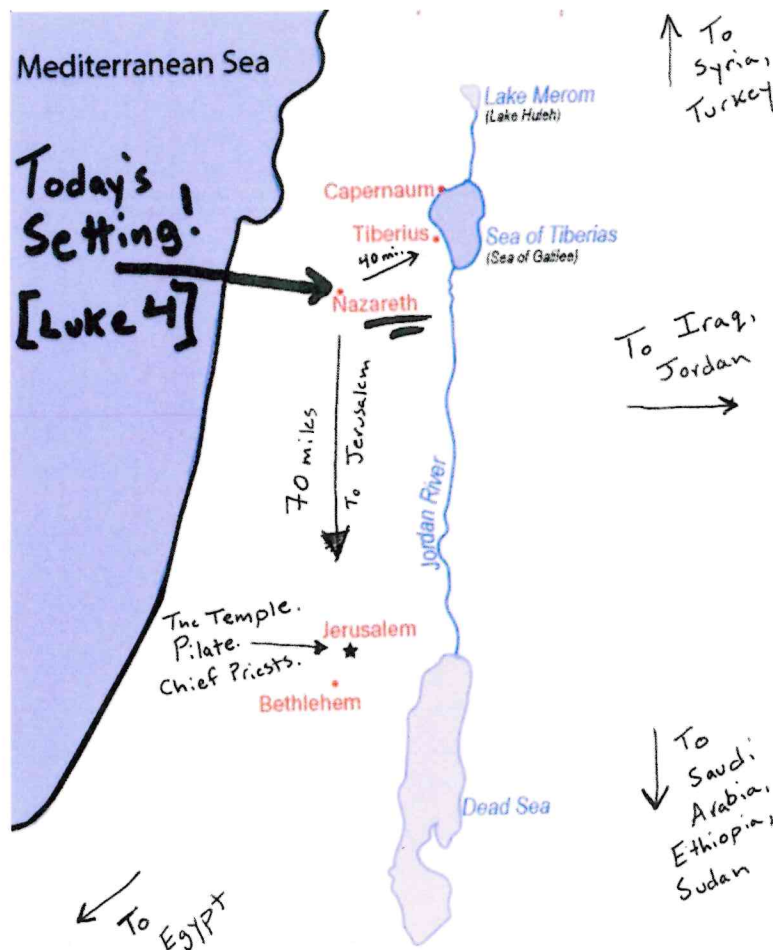


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SERMON NOTES

5 Things to Know About Luke 4

1. Nazareth was Jesus' hometown and was already 2200 years old when Jesus grew up. The population was around 500 people.
2. Nazareth is in a region of Israel called Galilee. In 30 A.D., Israel was under Roman Rule along with most of the known world. This is technically Pax Romana, the "peace" Rome experienced from 27 B.C. to 180 A.D.
3. In verse 16, Jesus begins his first official sermon by reading Isaiah 61 and declaring Jubilee to all the synagogue and his hometown.
4. Jubilee comes from Leviticus 25 and says that every 50 years society must reset: all debts released, slaves freed, anything foreclosed is returned, and even the land grows free with no systematic farming or harvesting allowed. The 50th year was to be a year of super-sabbath with rest for everything and everyone, even the foreigners living in Israel. There's no evidence it was ever practiced.
5. The synagogue built in Nazareth was built for the whole town. It could hold 500 people. Jesus is arguing with his entire hometown, and they march him to the top of a hill to throw him off and kill him. First sermon. First public discourse. Spoiler: He gets away this time...



Sunday, February 2, 2025
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

O Fix Me

arr. Roland Braithwaite

Welcome to all – especially to our guests.

Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Pad, located in each of the pews.

Hymns labeled GTG are in the Glory to God Hymnal (purple)

Hymns labeled AAHH are in the African American Heritage Hymnal (beige)

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary;

praise him in his mighty heavens!

Praise him for his mighty deeds!

Praise God for his exceeding greatness!

Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!

Praise God with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!

Praise God with dancing and clapping and with loud clashing noises!

Praise God for his exceeding greatness!

Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!

Praise God with clanging noises! Let the sea roar and all that fills it!

Let the trees clap hands at what God has done!

Let all the earth sing praises to God our King!

Praise God for his exceeding greatness!

Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom by giving your kingdom to the lowly and pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice and perseverance in striving for peace, that by our words and deeds the world may see the promise of your kingdom, revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Gospel Praise

The Lord Is My Light

Gospel Choir

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Lord, you know me. My thoughts, my words, and my actions are never hidden from you. Lord, you love me and there is nothing I have done or could ever do to make you love me any less.

Your love is perfect. I am not. Lord, forgive me in your boundless mercy. Help me to trust in your love and goodness. Help me to place my trust in nothing else and no one else. Only you, My God and My Lord, can truly help me. I thank you for forgiveness. I thank you for your healing. I thank you for being my loving and steadfast God despite all else. Amen.

Declaration of God's Forgiveness

As the voice from heaven said to our Lord,
so, in Christ, God now speaks to us:

you are my child, my beloved one,
with you I am well pleased!

Thanks be to God! The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Passing of the Peace/A Time for Celebration

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you!**

(Exchange signs of Christ's peace and forgiveness with others. We greet one another as neighbors in Christ. You may say "Peace be with you," or respond, "And also with you.")

***Response AAHH #524** There Is a Balm in Gilead

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole,

There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,

But then the Holy Spirit restores my soul again.

Repeat refrain.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading 1Corinthians 13: 1-13

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading Luke 4: 21-30

Message

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

***Affirmation of Faith**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.**

The third day he rose again from the dead.

**He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Apostles' Creed, c. 150 AD

Hymn GTG #819

Be Still, My Soul

Sacrament of Holy Communion

INVITATION

GREETING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give your thanks and praise.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

BLESSING OF THE ELEMENTS

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

CLOSING PRAYER

Call to Offering

Invitation to Offering

Offertory Anthem

Hear the Lambs A-Cryin' arr. Robert Decormier
Chancel Choir; Donald Steward, soloist

***Doxology GTG #606** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
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

WE GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

***Hymn AAHH #546**

This Little Light of Mine

***Benediction**

Postlude

In Christ There Is No East or West

arr. Gilbert Martin

The organ postlude is offered as an instrumental prayer. You are invited to remain seated; if you wish to depart, please do so quietly, remembering those who are still worshiping.

Worship Leaders:

The Rev. Dakota Whitaker, Pastor/Head of Staff

Dalos Grobe, Chancel Choir Director/Organist

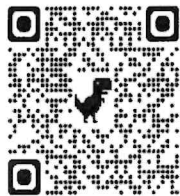
Victor Boyd, Gospel Choir Director

Trudie McCreadie, Liturgist

Peyton Friday, Deven Humphreys, Acolytes

During the month of February, the choir anthems as well as the organ preludes, offertories and postludes are arrangements of spirituals or original compositions by African American composers.

Visit our website at www.wcodetroit.org for the link to view our Sunday morning worship services on YouTube or follow us on Instagram and Facebook.



@WESTMINSTERCHURCHOFTDETROIT

Today's Anthem

You hear the lambs a-cryin', hear the lambs a-cryin', Oh, shepherd, feed-a my sheep. My Lord, He spoke these words so sweet: "Shepherd, if you love me, feed-a my sheep." Lord, I love thee, thou dost know. Oh, give me strength to love thee more. You hear the lambs a-cryin'. Oh, shepherd, feed-a my sheep.

819 Be Still, My Soul

1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
 2 Be still, my soul: thy God doth un - der - take
 3 Be still, my soul: the hour is has - tening on

Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain.
 to guide the fu - ture sure - ly as the past.
 when we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord;

Leave to thy God to or - der and pro - vide,
 Thy hope, thy con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake;
 when dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and fear are gone,

who through all chang - es faith - ful will re - main.
 all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last.
 sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored.

This meditative text seems to be rooted in Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God," while also reaching forward to 1 Thessalonians 4:17b, "we will be with the Lord forever." Much of the appeal of this hymn comes from its tune, named for the tone poem on which it is based.

TEXT: Katharina von Schlegel, 1752; trans. Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1855, alt.

MUSIC: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. *The Hymnal*, 1933, alt.

Music Arr. © 1933, ren. 1961 Presbyterian Board of Christian Education (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

FINLANDIA
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LIVING AND DYING IN CHRIST

Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heaven - ly Friend
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past

through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt be - low.
all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

549 THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.
Matthew 5:16

1. This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.
2. Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine.
3. Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon-na let it shine.

oh

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.
Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine.
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon-na let it shine.

oh

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.
Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine.
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon-na let it shine.

oh oh

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

4. Shine, shine, shine, I'm gonna let it shine....
5. All in my home, I'm gonna let it shine....

Text: Negro spiritual

Tune: LIGHT OF MINE, 12 12 12 9; Negro spiritual; arr. by Nolan Williams, Jr., b.1969. ©2000, GIA Publications, Inc.