



The Messenger

International Lutheran Church

www.ilcseoul.org

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Issue #733

A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

REPENT AND BELIEVE!

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15 ESV). With these words, Jesus calls us to follow Him. The Epiphany of Jesus at the lake calling the disciples to come follow Him reaches our ears today. What will cause us to get up and go? Come and discover what moved Him to seek us!

Today we both see and hear Jesus call the first disciples to turn and follow Him. The time had come for His ministry to begin. Like Jonah’s preaching in Nineveh, Jesus had come to call sinners to repentance. What is different is He is the One in whom the disciples were called to follow.

The other day we had a plumber helping at the church and I commented to him that his English was excellent. I asked him where he had learned to speak English and if he had ever been to church before. He said that he used to go to church in middle school but hasn’t gone since. It seems there was a moment when he prayed to God, but he felt that God did not hear his prayer. I am sure for many of us there are lots of reasons why we might come into the church. Maybe there have even been reasons when we wanted to leave. Sometimes we can be disappointed when we find the “kingdom” to be different than we had thought or imagined.

Here it is important to note the timing of Jesus’ ministry. The arrest of John is the moment Jesus picks as the very moment to begin the work of calling sinners to repentance and faith. It might seem a bit odd, but this is God’s kingdom Jesus was proclaiming, not our own. His kingdom does not come in power, but in the emptiness of the cross and the humility of a manger. Jesus’ own incarnation, the Son of God hidden in the Man from

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

ANYTIME Worship Service
(to be available online prerecorded)

7:00 p.m. Bible Study - (regularly scheduled at
9:00 a.m.; to be available
online livestream)

THIS WEEK

Wed., 1/27 Bible Study
(to be available online livestream)

Nazareth, is the way of God. Jesus comes the same today, not in a show of power that no one can resist, but in the simple invitation to come and be with Him. He calls one and all to see the grace of God revealed in and through the cross that He bore for us. What makes us get up and follow Him? He is neither a powerful example nor an example of power, but rather the One who would make His good news come alive in us. In Him, our repentance from our sin turns to belief in the forgiveness that is ours in Him. This is new. We are changed. We are no longer the same. Jesus makes us into His own instrument to bring others into His Kingdom. For the fishermen who left their nets to follow Him, they would become “fishers of men.” For the tax collectors who left their tables, they would become the ones to declare in Jesus that our “tax” is paid in full. For the doctors who would see and respond to His grace, they would become the one to show how in His wounds all ours illness is healed. This is His Kingdom where God turns our brokenness, our “leaky pipes” into an opportunity for both us and others to see God’s grace.

His Kingdom is here! Repent and believe! Come, follow Him and experience how He will change us and use us to bring His Kingdom to many!

Pastor Carl

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER?

Every week, various people are involved in the worship service as readers and singers. Please let us know at seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com if you would like to assist in one of these ways.

STILL ONLINE ONLY SERVICES

All activities remain online only, either prerecorded or virtual. However, we anticipate adjustments for Sunday, January 31 with very limited in-person worship opportunities where registration will be required. Check for announcements on the ILC website (www.ilcseoul.org), Facebook, and through *The Messenger*, electronic version.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

Bible studies and Sunday School have resumed. See the electronic version of *The Messenger* for specifics.

MEN'S GROUP FELLOWSHIP

On Saturday, February 6 the ILC Men's Group will meet online. All men all welcome to join in from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The link will be in the electronic version of *The Messenger*.

ILC OFFERINGS RECORD FOR LOCAL TAXES

If you need a donations statement for local taxes, please let us know by sending an email to seoulilc.church@gmail.com.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

ONLINE GIVING

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN FAITHFULLY MAKING USE OF ONLINE GIVING.

Though we are not meeting in person, church operations still continue and to that end we encourage you to make use of offering your tithes and gifts via online giving. Giving in this way will be recorded for your personal end-of-year giving statement.

If you are unable or do not wish to give electronically, you may hold your offerings until we resume our normal worship schedule.

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READINGS

January 24: Third Sunday after the Epiphany

OT	Jonah 3:1-5, 10
NT	1 Corinthians 7:29-31, 32-35
Gospel	Mark 1:14-20

January 31: Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

OT	Deuteronomy 18:15-20
NT	1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Gospel	Mark 1:21-28

FLOWERS

If you would like to purchase flowers for beside the altar in order to honor or gift to someone, the cost is ₩35,000 for a potted arrangement. Please write to seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com with any questions or requests.

