**Contemplation and Conversation: 4th Sunday after Epiphany, January 30, 2022**

A picture containing snow, nature, outdoor, rock

Description automatically generated**Scripture:** Luke 4:21-30 NRSV <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%204%3A21-30&version=NRSV>

**Contemplation and Conversation*:***

*What do you need from Jesus today?*

**From Rev. Heather Leffler:**

One of the gifts of following Jesus is that he has lived in our world. We trust that he can understand the challenges we face. His life offers us guidance as we journey through our lives.

Worship was important to Jesus. Wherever he was, he taught in synagogues. When he returned to Nazareth, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath. He accepted the invitation to read the scripture and teach. He began with gracious words. When voices challenged him because he was the carpenter’s son, he reminded them that God sends prophets to people who will listen to their message. He spoke words of healing and hope but when needed Jesus also offered words of challenge and justice.

When the crowd became angry and pushed him out to the edge of the cliff, Jesus didn’t become angry or compromise what he believed for his own safety. He simply walked away.

Jesus offers us encouragement and challenge, love and forgiveness, healing and hope. May you receive the gift you need today from our friend and redeemer. Amen.

*Whether you are at home trying to help slow the spread of the virus,  
working to help care for those who are impacted most by COVID-19  
or working to keep some normalcy in this time,  
may you know God’s deep and abiding love in your life.  
Know you are a valued part of our Rockwood and Stone United Church families.*

**Further Conversation** … Would you like to talk more about today’s reflection? Email Heather at [hleffler@rogers.com](mailto:hleffler@rogers.com). Following worship next Sunday, she will invite others to join you in a Zoom break out room to share in further conversation.

**Our Rockwood Stone Family**

*If you missed today’s worship service,* email [hleffler@rogers.com](mailto:hleffler@rogers.com) for the link.

Please keep the Hunter-Anthony family in your thoughts and prayers as they mourn the deaths of Amanda’s mother and aunt.

**Coming Up**

**Stone’s Annual Meeting** will be held next **Sunday, February 6** at **11 :15 am** on ***Zoom*.**

**Rockwood’s Annual Meeting** will be held **Sunday, February 13** at **11:15 am** on ***Zoom.***

New business at both meetings will include approving our new governance polices and a conversation with our Affirming Discernment Circle. Watch for details with your Annual Report which will be sent in the next few days. If you need a printed copy of the report, email hleffler@rogers.com.

**Affirming Discernment Circle**

**Black History Month**

[](https://united-church.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ff2087d5fde243a770ed893a8&id=fe58c74022&e=3913501fc3)

February is Black History Month in Canada—a time to honour the contributions and struggles of peoples of African descent. You can find worship resources, study guides, prayers and more for each week on our [website](https://united-church.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ff2087d5fde243a770ed893a8&id=ac053b76ff&e=3913501fc3).

2015-2024 is the UN Decade for African Descent to learn more go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFkQdEQ1Bx> .

**United Church of Canada** *from Moderator Richard Bott, January 21, 2022*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIp2xaKFBno>

**Korea Peace Campaign**

Yesterday, The United Church of Canada launched its Korea Peace Appeal Ten Thousand Signature Campaign and declared, “70 years is enough. It’s time to end the Korean War.”

Long-time partner in Korea, The National Council of Churches, has challenged the United Church to collect 10,000 signatures. United Church people across Canada are invited to sign the appeal and invite their communities of faith, networks, and friends to join them.

Each signature is one step closer to the 10,000 mark. [Find out more and add your signature](https://united-church.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ff2087d5fde243a770ed893a8&id=5a3cfc812c&e=3913501fc3).

*A gift of belonging to a church is that the practice of gathering together for worship … to pray, sing, listen to scripture and share how God touches our lives – helps us grow in deeper relationship to God and each other. With COVID-19 keeping us at home and physically distant from our Stone or Rockwood families, we are missing each other. We are offering this practice of sharing beyond Sunday morning to deepen our connection. Each week you will be offered a picture, a scripture and a question for contemplation, as well as a short reflection for you to contemplate, have conversation with people in your life and/or join an online conversation on our Rockwood Stone Facebook page.*