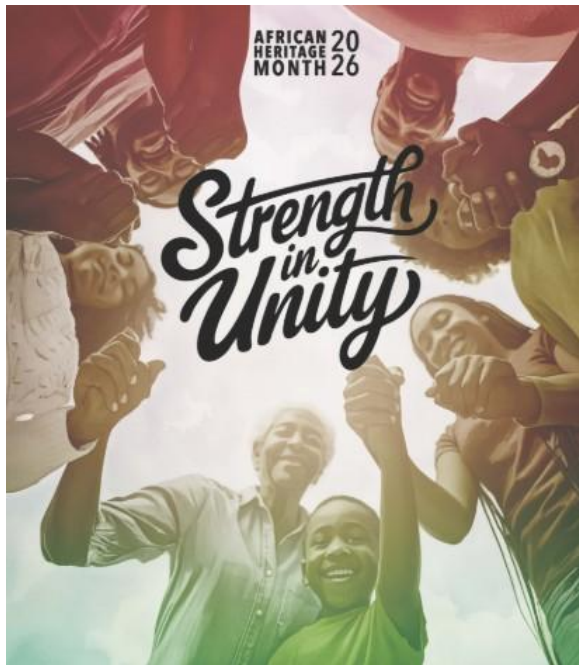


**Piano Postlude:** *I Wouldn't Normally Say*  
- Errollyn Wallen



This year's **African Heritage Month** provincial theme is; **"Strength in Unity: Moving Forward with Purpose, Prosperity, Power and Progress"**

"It is a call to action. Unity has always been a source of strength for African Nova Scotians and people of African descent, sustaining us through generations of challenge and change.

By honouring our elders and standing together, we create opportunities and shape a future where our leadership, culture and contributions are reflected in every part of this province."

— Twila Grosse, Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs

Nova Scotia has 52 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a long, deep and complex history dating back over 200 years. African Heritage Month provides us with another opportunity to celebrate our culture, legacy, achievements and contributions of our people – past and present.

The beginning of African Heritage Month can be traced back to 1926 when Harvard-educated Black historian Carter G. Woodson founded Negro History Week to recognize the achievements made by African Americans. Black History Month was first celebrated in Canada in 1950.

## The Fourth Sunday After Epiphany ~ African Heritage Month ~



*'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.'*

**February 1, 2026**

**Piano Prelude:** *Op. 118 no. 2 Intermezzo in A major* - Johannes Brahms

### Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgement

**Opening Hymn:** CP 2 *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

### Children's Message



### Collect

**God our deliverer,  
you call us to walk humbly with you.  
When we are foolish, be our wisdom;  
when we are weak, be our strength;  
so that, as we learn to do justice and to love mercy,  
your rule may come to us as a blessing. Amen.**  
*Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (2002) alt.*

### The Proclamation of the Word

**Reader:** Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scripture.

**All:** **Our hearts and minds are open.**

**Reader** A reading from the prophet Micah (6:1-8)

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.  
Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has

a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

‘O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.’

‘With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?’ He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

**Reader** Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

**People** Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 15

Chant 4



Lord, who may dwell in your / tabernacle?\*

**Who may abide upon your / holy hill?**

Whoever leads a blameless life and does / what is right,\*

**who speaks the truth / from his heart,**

there is no guile upon his tongue;

he does no evil / to his friend;\*

**he does not heap contempt up-/on his neighbour.**

In his sight the wicked / is rejected,\*

**but he honours those who / fear the Lord.**

He has sworn to / do no wrong\*

**and does not take / back his word.**

He does not give his money in / hope of gain,\*

**nor does he take a bribe a-/gainst the innocent.**

Whoever / does these things\*

**shall never be / overthrown.**

## Gospel Acclamation *Arise, Shine!*

*Arise shine for your light has come*

*and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you*



A - rise-shine for your li-ght has come and the glo-ry of the Lord has dawned up-on you. A

## The Gospel

*All stand, as able, for the Gospel.*

**Deacon** The Lord be with you

**People** And also with you.

**Deacon** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus

Christ according to Matthew (5:1-12)

**People** Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely\* on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

*At the conclusion of the Gospel, the reader says,*

The Gospel of Christ.

**People** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Today we Welcome our Guest Speaker -

Miia Suokonautio, the Executive Director of the YWCA Halifax

## Preparation Hymn [see Insert] *Christ Be Our Light*



*The wine, hosts, and bulletin today  
are in Loving Memory of the Bowley  
Family, Nassau Bahamas*

## Hymn During Communion [see Insert]

*Love is Spoken Here*

## Sending Hymn CP 507 *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*