

March 14, 2021
Fourth of Lent

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: Open The Eyes of My Heart. Words and music by Paul Baloche. (Arr. by Ken Medema)

Lighting the Christ Candle

Moment of Silent Reflection

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation

Call to Worship

We come, to offer all that we have to God:

our minds, our bodies, our hearts, our hopes.

We come, to offer all that we are to God:

**our relationships with families and friends,
our longing to draw closer to other disciples.**

We come, to offer all that we would be to God:

our faith, our discipleship, our yearning to follow Jesus.

We come, to offer ourselves to God:

who offers life, peace, and joy in Jesus Christ.

Hymn VU 574 "Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love"

Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,
tender and true, tender and true,
out of the heart of the Father above,
streaming to me and to you:
wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

Jesus the Saviour this gospel to tell
joyfully came, joyfully came,
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,
sharing their sorrow and shame,
seeking the lost, seeking the lost,
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.

Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;
why do they roam? why do they roam?
Love only waits to forgive and forget;
home, weary wanderers, home!
Wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love!
Come and abide, come and abide,
lifting my life till it rises above
envy and falsehood and pride:
seeking to be, seeking to be
lowly and humble, a learner of thee.

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Written by John Moses. **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2021, page 30. Used with permission.

Gracious God, we want to see your goodness in the land of the living – here and now, in this world of flesh and blood, in the midst of deep fears and desperate hopes. Give us the grace to put our trust in your mercy, even when our hearts cry out in fear. Help us to notice the whisper of your presence amid all the noise and news that clamour and threaten. Let your love, like a healing stream, flow through us and carry us onward to a new day. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Time for the Young and the Young At Heart

Solo: "Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated" by Mark Hayes. Sung by Nancy Quinn

Responsive Reading: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 VU 831 *parts one and two*

O give thanks, for God is gracious;

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of God say so, those redeemed from trouble,

whom God gathered in from the lands,

from the east and the west,

from the north and the south.

Some suffered because of their sinful ways,
afflicted on account of their wrongdoing.

They loathed every kind of food;

they came close to the gates of death.

Then they cried to you, God, in their trouble.

You rescued them from their distress.

You gave the word and healed them;

you saved them from the grave.

Let them thank you, God, for your steadfast love,
for the wonders you do for us.

Let them offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving,

and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

Scripture: John 3:14-21

¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

For those of you who are interested, the other readings for this week are: **Numbers 21:4-9; Ephesians 2:1-10.** You can look them up on www.biblegateway.com and search for the passage..... in any translation you prefer (ie. King James - KJV, NKJV, NRSV, etc.)

Meditation: "Wokey, wokey!"

Hymn VU 371 "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.

Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

We worship God not only in song and in prayer, but also in our service to God's children and in supporting the work of this congregation and the wider church. May our life-changing God bless all that we offer with gracious and generous hearts. May all that we offer be used to transform brokenness into wholeness, hunger and thirst into satisfaction, disease into healing, worry into peace, and sorrow into joy. In Jesus' name we ask. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

O God, lover of the world, you hold all that you have created within your compassionate embrace. As you hold our lives torn by pain, sorrow or hatred within your aching heart, we cry out for wholeness – for ourselves, for those we love, and for our world. May your healing presence gently transform the places in our lives where we hold pain. May your loving presence be a comforting reality for all those who find themselves in despair, lost or alone. May your transforming presence create generosity in place of greed, harmony in place of hatred, and everlasting justice where evil now reigns.

We pray for your church, the Body of Christ, around the world and here in Southwestern Ontario. May it become woke to your vision of what could be. This week we pray especially for Drumbo Pastoral Charge.

We pray for the nations of this world. May they rule over their peoples with justice and righteousness, and may they work together for the benefit of all. This week we pray especially for the peoples of Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden.

We pray for all those who mourn a loss in their lives. May they arrive at a place of peace. We pray especially for the family and friends of Ray Martin, June Warren, and Sandy Weiczorek.

We pray for all who are ill or dying, awaiting medical intervention or recovering from medical treatment. Grant them strength and comfort. Especially we pray for Rob Ford, Roger Henry, Bobby LaRush, Andy Linell, Phil Shelley, Marilyn Smith of Union, Marlene Smith,

And their loved ones, and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

All this we pray in the name of our Lord and Saviour, who lives with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, and who taught us to pray, saying:

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn VU 82 "A Light is Gleaming"

Refrain: A light is gleaming, spreading its arms
throughout the night, living in the light.
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love
is burning bright, living in the light.

When light comes pouring into the darkest place,
it hurts our eyes to see the glow.
Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our fears,
our memories and tears. **R**

When night is round us and every shadow grows,
a star is there to light our way.
It tells a story of Jesus who came near to say:
'God's light will ever stay.' **R**

And Jesus showed us a brighter path to walk.
He showed us things we hadn't seen.
Now we, like Jesus, can help creation shine,
and this will be a sign: **R**

So let us live in the brightness God has giv'n,
and let us rise to see the dawn.
We trust that God is here asparkle and ablaze,
- warming all our days. **R**

Commissioning and Benediction

May you be woke to God's hopes and dreams for this world, woke and not slept.

**May our ears be open to the cries of all who are marginalized,
And our eyes open to God's yearning; to what ought to be.**

May the grace of our Lord, Jesus, the Christ,
The love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit

Grant us courage and strength for the living of these days.

May it be so.

Amen.

Sung Response: VU 425 "God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" vs 1

God, dismiss us with your blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace;
O refresh us, O refresh us,
travelling through the wilderness.

Postlude: Jesus Paid it All. (In a setting of Franz Liszt's Consolation 111) composer John.T. Grape.
Arr. by Cindy Berry.

Scripture Lessons for next week:

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33