

March 13, 2022  
Second Sunday of Lent

**We Gather In God's Presence**

**Prelude:** "Lead Me To Calvary" Lloyd Larson Tune: Duncannon By William J. Kirkpatrick

**Lenten Liturgy** Written by Jen Dresser, *Gathering*, Lent/Easter 2016, page 67. Used with permission.

Jesus knew that following God was not an easy path. We hope and expect that life will be comfortable and easy. Following Jesus means losing our life as we know it so that we can save it. Discomfort lies in confronting the ways in which we ourselves contribute to pain and suffering in the world.

*(the second rock is placed)* The rock of discomfort.

**May God's spirit walk with us.**

**Gathering In Song MV 90** "Don't Be Afraid"

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear.

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger and I have promised,  
promised to be always near.

**Moment of Silent Reflection**

**Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation – see last page ...**

**Call to Worship**

God yearns to be in covenant with us,

**Yet we yearn for good things to fill our bellies with.**

God beckons us like a hen beckons her chicks,

**Yet we scatter like hens when a fox gets in the henhouse.**

God comes for us,

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hymn VU 415** "God, We Praise You for the Morning" vss. 1-5

God, we praise you for the morning;  
hope springs forth with each new day,  
new beginning, prayer, and promise,  
joy in work and in play.

God, we praise you for creation,  
mountains, seas, and prairie land.  
Waking souls find joy and healing  
in your bountiful hand.

God, we praise you for compassion,  
all the loving that you show;  
human touching, tears, and laughter,  
help your children to grow.

God, we praise you for your Spirit,  
Comforter and daily friend,  
restless searcher, gentle teacher,  
strength and courage you send.

God, we praise you for the Saviour,  
come that we may know your ways.  
In his loving, dying, rising,  
Christ is Lord of our days.


**Opening Prayer** (*unison*)

Holy One, we give you thanks for your creation; the sun, the moon and the stars in the sky, the birds that fly through the air, the fish that swim in the seas, the fresh green of spring and the golden harvest of autumn. We thank you for our forebears, Abram and Sarai, and for your promises to them; that they would be the parents of multitudes, and that you would remain faithful to those multitudes. Yet often we have trouble believing that your covenant with them is also your covenant with us. You promised Abram many descendants and a land to live in, but what are your promises for us? Remove our doubts, strengthen our faith, renew your covenant with us, that we would know your love for us, and that we might make that love known in this world. Amen.

**We Are Blessed By God**

**Anthem:** "Deep River" Traditional Spiritual arr. Moses Hogan. Nancy Quinn and Norm Abbott

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/9oQHRPu9ojc>

**Time for the Young and the Young @** 

**Hymn VU 291** "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

Refrain: All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful:  
in love, God made them all.

- 1 Each little flower that opens,  
each little bird that sings,  
God made their glowing colours,  
God made their tiny wings. R
- 2 The purpleheaded mountains,  
the river running by,  
the sunset and the morning  
that brightens up the sky; R
- 3 The cold wind in the winter,  
the pleasant summer sun,  
the ripe fruits in the garden:  
God made them every one. R
- 4 The rocky mountain splendour,  
the lone wolf's haunting call,  
the great lakes and the prairies,  
the forest in the fall; R
- 5 God gave us eyes to see them,  
and lips that we might tell  
how great is God our maker,  
who has made all things well. R

## **Responsive Reading: Psalm 27**

God is my light and my salvation, whom then shall I fear?

**God is the stronghold of my life,  
of whom shall I be afraid?**

When the wicked close in to devour me,

**it is they, my enemies and my foes, who stumble and fall.**

If an army should encamp against me,

my heart shall not be afraid;

**if war should arise against me,  
even then I will not be dismayed.**

One thing I have asked of God, for which I long:

that I may dwell in God's house all the days of my life,

**to gaze on your beauty, O God,  
and to seek you in your temple.**

For in the time of trouble you will give me shelter;

**you will hide me under the cover of your tent,  
you will set me high upon a rock.**

And now you have raised my head

above my enemies round about me.

**Therefore I will offer in your dwelling  
a sacrifice with great gladness.**

Hear my voice, O God, when I call; have mercy and answer me.

Your face, O God, I seek.

**Do not hide your face from me;  
do not reject your servant in anger,  
you who have been my helper.**

Do not cast me off, or forsake me, O God my saviour.

**Though my father and mother forsake me,  
my God will take me up.**

Teach me your way, O God,

**lead me on a level path,  
safe from those who lie in wait for me.**

Do not give me up to the will of my enemies,

**for liars and false witnesses arise against me.**

I believe that I shall see God's goodness

in the land of the living.

**Wait for God; be strong, and take courage;  
yes, wait for God!**

## **Scripture: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18**

### **God's Covenant with Abram**

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be

your heir.” He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

*For those of you who are interested, the other readings for this week are: **Philippians 3:17-4:1**; **Luke 13:31-35**. You can look them up on [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) and search for the passage..... in any translation you prefer (ie. King James – KJV, NKJV, NRSV, etc.)*

**Meditation:** “Promises, promises”

**Hymn VU 332** “The Church’s One Foundation”

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
she is his new creation by water and the word;  
from heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

'Mid toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation of peace for evermore,  
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the three in one,  
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

### **We Respond To God’s Grace**

**Invitation to Invest in God’s Mission**

God shelters us from the ways of the world with love, with grace, with hope. Through our givings, we extend God’s love, grace, and hope to the community in which we live, and around the world. Our tithes and other offerings will be received, via Canada Post or CanadaHelps, the offering plate, the mail slot at the church, or e-transfer.

### **Offertory Hymn VU 542 "We Give You But Your Own"**

We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

### **Offering Prayer**

Holy One, without an heir, Abram was anxious about the future and uncertain of your blessing on his life. Accept, bless and use these offerings that those who, like Abram, are uncertain of or do not know your presence in their life may come to know and be certain of your blessings on them. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer**

All knowing and All powerful God, we passionately pray:

That Lent may bring a return to the covenant in which we love you and our neighbours as Jesus teaches. Renew the covenant between you and your church, that it may, once again, be a source of safety and hope for all. Especially we pray for Glencoe-Appin Pastoral Charge as they work towards a shared ministry and covenant with the Anglican church in Glencoe.

Holy One, renew our faith and love for you;

That Lent may be a time for truth, justice and peace in the decisions of all levels of government around the world. This week we pray especially for the peoples of Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and Ukraine.

Holy One, renew our hunger for righteousness;

That Lent may be a time for each household to strengthen bonds of love and communication.

Holy One, renew our love for one another;

That Lent may be a time of comfort for those who mourn,

Especially we think of the friends and family of Jane Smith and Alexis Statham.

Holy One, renew our hope in life beyond death;

That Lent may be a time of healing for all who suffer in flesh, mind and spirit,

Especially we pray for Ron Dickie, and Jack, and their loved ones, and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

Holy One, renew our spirits, our minds, our bodies, our lives;

That Lent may be a time of resolution for all those concerns known only to us.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, joining to them our promise to live Jesus' way of love, and in whose name we pray:

**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 sins,**

**as we forgive those who sin against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **Hymn VU 421 "Lead On, O Cloud of Presence"**

Lead on, O cloud of Presence, the exodus is come.  
In wilderness and desert our tribe shall make its home.  
Our slavery left behind us, new hopes within us grow.  
We seek the land of promise where milk and honey flow.

Lead on, O fiery Pillar, we follow yet with fears,  
but we shall come rejoicing though joy be born of tears.  
We are not lost, though wandering, for by your light we come,  
and we are still God's people. The journey is our home.

Lead on, O God of freedom, and guide us on our way,  
and help us trust the promise through struggle and delay.  
We pray our sons and daughters may journey to that land  
where justice dwells with mercy, and love is law's demand.

## **Commissioning and Benediction**

God of the wilderness,

**be with us as we wander through the desert of our lives.**

Keep us from running back to the safety of old assumptions,

**and walk with us as we learn to trust you fully,**

**and to live according to your righteousness.**

## **Sung Response: VU 961 "Let Us, O God, Depart in Peace"**

Let us, O God, depart in peace, who in your name are gathered here.

Disclose the brightness of your face, and be forever near.

**Postlude:** "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" Carl G. Glasser Tune: Azmon  
Setting by John Carter

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **DORCHESTER:**

Central Board will meet on Tuesday, March 22 at 7 p.m.. Please have committee reports to Karyn by March 16 so she has time to prepare and send the consent docket prior to the meeting.

There will be a short congregational meeting following worship on March 27 to approve the selection of chair of the board.

### **UNION:**

**March Outreach:** St. Thomas Elgin Food Bank suggestions: canned brown beans, pasta sauce and dry noodles, canned chili, stew, soups, jam and peanut butter. You may deposit these items in the box at the back of the sanctuary, or send a monetary donation to St. Thomas Elgin Food Bank, P. O. Box 20025, St. Thomas, ON, N5P 2X3

The Broadview subscription renewal for Union is due mid-March. If you wish to be included or deleted from the subscription list, please let Roberta know.

### **Lectionary Readings for next week:**

March 20, 2022 (Third Sunday of Lent)

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9