

April 3, 2022
Fifth Sunday of Lent

We Gather In God's Presence

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

Following Jesus requires strength for the journey. If we follow faithfully, we will find ourselves taken into places of shadows and death. It is easy to falter and want to return home. Have courage to step forward. (*rock is placed, candle is extinguished*)

The rock of strength.

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.

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

Call to Worship

Whatever blessings lie in the past, God's future is better!

We will search without ceasing for the new thing God is doing for us!

All that we have accomplished to date is but a prelude of what is to come!

We will catch our second wind to follow where Jesus leads us!

Regardless of the obstacles, God will make a path to our hearts!

We will move forward, through our doubts and our fears!

Let us sing a song of praise to the Lord our God!

Hymn VU 234 "Let Us with a Gladsome Mind"

Let us with a gladsome mind
praise our God, forever kind;
whose great mercies still endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.

God, with all-commanding might,
filled the newmade world with light;
for God's mercies still endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.

God has with a gracious eye
looked upon our misery;
for God's mercies still endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.

All things living God does feed,
with full measure meets their need;
for God's mercies still endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.

Let us then with gladsome mind,
praise our God, forever kind;
whose great mercies still endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Time and time again, Lord, you have saved your people from their enemies, even when we were our own worst enemies. Time and time again, Lord, you have led your people into the wilderness. Time and time again, Lord, you have restored your covenant with your people and led us into a new relationship with you. Lord, we know that there is much wrong in our world and with ourselves. We know that we often fail to walk in your way and to share your light. We know that we have sinned against you; failing to fully live by your commandments and be your people. Gather up our tears and wash away the dust of our despair. Wipe away our sins. Anoint our lives with your costly love. Do a new thing in our lives, in our community, in our world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

We Ask God's Blessing

Anthem: "Said Judas to Mary"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5kkhY0JhiTU>

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

Hymn VU 117 "Jesus Christ is Waiting"

Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;
no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.
Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.

Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets,
where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too.
In the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.

Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets;
curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too.
Let my care be active, healing just like you.

Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets,
where each sign of hatred he, with love, defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too.
On suspicion's graveyard let me dance with you.

Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,
'Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet.'
Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me; I will follow you.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

God of all seasons, in your patterns of things there is a time for keeping and a time for losing; a time for building up and a time for pulling down. In this holy season of Lent, as we journey to the cross, help us to discern in our individual lives, and in our life together, what we must lay down and what we must take up; what we must end and what we must begin. Give us grace to lead disciplined lives, in glad faithfulness and with joy which comes from a closer walk with Jesus. We pray for your church, may we speak truth to power, may we show the world what your justice looks like, may we live your calling daily, and not just Sunday mornings. We pray especially for Banner United Church.

We pray for our brothers and sisters around the world. This week we pray especially for the people of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Slovenia.

We pray for those whose lives have been disrupted by acts of war and terrorism, especially we pray for the people of Russia and Ukraine, Israel and Palestine, Myanmar, Somalia, and Yemen.

We pray for all who mourn, especially we think of the friends and family of Leon Denniss.

We pray for all who are ill or dying, all who are awaiting medical intervention or recovering from treatment. Especially we think of Ron Dickie, Jack, Marlene, Scott, Tucker, and their loved ones, and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

All this we pray in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray, saying,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come, your 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 the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

Mary was recklessly extravagant in anointing Jesus' feet with an entire bottle of nard. Let us imitate Mary and be recklessly extravagant with our service to God's creation, our lives dedicated to God's way, and our offerings for God's commonwealth of righteousness.

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, accept our offerings and our lives to do a new thing. Make real the call of Christ for our lives and for our time. Turn fear and hatred into love; turn lies and propaganda into truth, turn injustice and torture into justice, turn war and terrorism into peace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

We Listen For God's Word

Responsive Lesson: Psalm 126

When God brought Zion's captives home,
it seemed to us like a dream.

**But then our mouths were full of laughter,
and our tongues uttered shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations:

'God has done great things for them.'

**Truly God has done great things for us,
and therefore we rejoice.**

Restore our fortunes, O God, as streams refresh the Negev.

Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying seed for sowing,

**shall come home with songs of joy,
bringing in their sheaves.**

Scripture: Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the LORD,

who makes a way in the sea,

a path in the mighty waters,

who brings out chariot and horse,

army and warrior;

they lie down, they cannot rise,

they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

Do not remember the former things,

or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing;

now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness

and rivers in the desert.

The wild animals will honor me,

the jackals and the ostriches;

for I give water in the wilderness,

rivers in the desert,

to give drink to my chosen people,

the people whom I formed for myself

so that they might declare my praise.

*The other readings for this week are: **Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8**. 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.)*

Hymn MV 79 "Spirit, Open My Heart"

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.

God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.

Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory.

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.

May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another.

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.

Meditation: "The Good New Days"

We Depart With God's Blessing

Hymn VU 601 "The Church of Christ in Every Age"

The church of Christ in every age,
beset by change but Spirit led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.

Across the world, across the street
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live until they die.

Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.

For Christ alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.

We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord:
to care for all without reserve
and spread Christ's liberating word.

Commissioning and Benediction

Go into the world you anointed of God,

**We go as new people, doing new things,
things we had never dreamed of doing.**

And may the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit go with you,
this day and always.

Amen.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.....

ALL:

Bridges Out of Poverty

Bridging Poverty and Privilege... *growing life-changing relationships*

Six Wednesdays: April 27 to June 1, 2022 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. EST / 10:00 a.m. - noon PST

What if our response to poverty went beyond charity? What if we grew intentional friendships with our neighbours who are living in poverty? What if your church community could start a ministry that will make a tangible impact on poverty in the place you live? Explore how this can happen in weekly gatherings of food, fun, and storytelling while learning together how to bridge poverty and privilege.

Register for this program at united-in-learning.com

Siloam United Church is hosting **Expressions of Love**, a concert featuring singer/songwriter Kelly Walker, Actor/Singer Breanne Dietrich and Stratford Poet, David Stones on Saturday, April 23, 2022 at 7:30 pm. Admission is by freewill offering at the door in support of the work and outreach of Siloam United Church.

UNION:

April Outreach: Port Stanley Community Cupboard food bank suggestions:
dry and canned goods or a monetary donation.

Lectionary Readings for next week: (April 10, Sixth of Lent – Palm Sunday)

Liturgy of the Palms: Luke 19:28-40; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11;

Luke 22:14-23:56 OR Luke 23:1-49