

Sunday April 6, 2025  
Fifth Sunday of Lent

**We Gather In God's Presence**

**Prelude:** "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go" In a setting of Frederick Chopin's Etude Op. 10 #3

**Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation**

**Call to Worship**

We come, trusting in God

**We commit ourselves to love those around us,  
as we would have them love us.**

We come, delighting in all the wonders  
God provides for us.

**We let go of worry, fear, vindictiveness,  
and open ourselves to God's heart.**

We come, waiting patiently for God to speak.

**We listen for God's words of love and of hope.**

**We come to worship God.**

**Hymn VU 234** "Let Us with a Gladsome Mind" Words: John Milton, 1623.

Music: attributed to John Antes, ca. 1800. Arranged by John Lees, 1824.

Words, Music, and Arrangement in the Public Domain

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 new-made 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;  
for God's mercies still endure,  
ever faithful, ever sure.

**Lenten Candle Liturgy** written by Jim McKean. **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2025. Page 71. Used with permission.

“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.....

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. *Isaiah 43:18-19a, 20b-21*

Today is the fifth Sunday of Lent. During our Lenten time, we are called to reflect on our faith as we proceed with Jesus, our friend and teacher, toward Jerusalem. Once more we are on a collective journey of faith as we travel toward Holy Week and its culmination at Easter and explore the many covenants God has with God's people.

Today we begin with four purple candles extinguished. In Jesus' time, purple signified royalty. So it is fitting that we use purple candles to signify that Jesus has royal status in our hearts and our minds. The Christ candle signifies the light of Christ in our world, and it will be the last candle we extinguish on Good Friday.

Today we mark the journey by extinguishing our fifth candle, even as we remember God's covenant of life.

*(third purple candle is extinguished)*

**Opening Prayer** *(unison)*

Life-Giving God, as we draw closer to Jerusalem, knowing what lies ahead for Jesus, we are reminded of the life that you give to each and every one of us. Receive our thanks for your reminder that you are doing something new, something life-giving. Receive our joy in the life we have lived and the influence that Jesus' ministry has had on our lives. Amen.

**Ministry of Music:**

**Apostles' Creed** VU 918

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Hymn VU 143** "My Song Is Love Unknown" Words: Samuel Crossman, 1664. Music: John Ireland, 1918.  
 Words in the Public Domain. Music © The John Ireland Trust.  
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My song is love unknown, my Saviour's love to me,  
 love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.

O who am I that for my sake  
 my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?

He cam from his blest throne salvation to bestow,  
 but people scorned, and none the longed-for Christ would know.

But O my Friend, my Friend indeed,  
 who at my need his life did spend!

Sometimes they strew his way, and his sweet praises sing,  
 resounding all the day hosannas to their King.

Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,  
 and for his death they thirst and cry.

Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine;  
 never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine!

This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
 I all my days could gladly spend.

### **We Open Ourselves to Receive God's Blessings**

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 126

**We praise the One who gave the growth, with voices full and strong.**

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.**

**We praise the One who gave the growth, with voices full and strong.**

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.**

**We praise the One who gave the growth, with voices full and strong.**

**Scripture: John 12:1-8 Mary Anoints Jesus**

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

*The other readings for this week are: **Isaiah 43:16-21; Philipians 3:4b-14***

**Meditation:** "Prodigal Love"

**Hymn VU 129** "Said Judas to Mary" Words and Music: Sydney Carter, 1964. Words © 1964 Sydney Carter.  
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Said Judas to Mary, "Now what will you do  
with your ointment so rich and so rare?"

"I'll pour it all over the feet of the Lord  
and I'll wipe it away with my hair," she said,  
"wipe it away with my hair."

"Oh Mary, oh Mary, oh think of the poor  
this ointment, it could have been sold,  
and think of the blankets and think of the bread  
you could buy with the silver and gold," he said,  
"buy with the silver and gold."

"Tomorrow, tomorrow I'll think of the poor,  
tomorrow," she said, "not today;  
for dearer than all of the poor in the world  
is my love who is going away," she said,  
"my love who is going away."

Said Jesus to Mary, "Your love is so deep,  
today you may do as you will.  
Tomorrow you say I am going away,  
but my body I leave with you still," he said,  
"my body I leave with you still."

"The poor of the world are my body," he said,  
"to the end of the world they shall be;  
the bread and the blankets you give to the poor  
you'll know you have given to me," he said,  
"you'll know you have given to me."

“My body will hang on the cross of the world tomorrow,” he said, “not today, and Martha and Mary will find me again and wash all my sorrow away,” he said, “wash all my sorrow away.”

### **We Respond To God's Grace**

#### **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. Our tithes and offerings will be received.

**Offertory Hymn VU 537** “Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands” Words: Calvin Weiss Laufer, 1927.

Music: Neil Dougall, ca. 1831.

Words and Music in the Public Domain

Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere, and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share. Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make: be pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.

#### **Prayer of Dedication**

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.

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

We pray for those whose lives have been disrupted by natural disaster, especially the people of Myanmar and Thailand.

We pray for all who mourn, especially we think of the friends and family of Christa, Mary Lee Patience, and John Muir.

We pray for all who are ill or dying, all who are awaiting medical intervention or recovering from treatment. Especially we think of Jack, Kurt, 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 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,  
 the power, and the glory,  
 forever and ever.  
 Amen.**

**Hymn VU 117** “Jesus Christ Is Waiting” Words: John L. Bell, 1984.

Music: French carol, 15<sup>th</sup> Century, harmonized The Iona Community, 1984.

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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.

## **Commissioning**

Go into the world you beloved of God,

**We go, spreading the fragrance of God's love wherever we go.**

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.**

**Response: MV 90** "Don't Be Afraid" Words: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1995. Music: John L. Bell, 1995.  
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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.

**Postlude:** "Lead Me To Calvary" Lloyd Larson. Tune: Duncannon. Arr. Cindy Berry

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We will be screening the movie "BAD FAITH," about the rise of "Christian" Nationalism in North America and around the world, at 2 p.m. this afternoon. Admittance is free. Bring your popcorn!

**Ham and Oyster Supper** on Friday, April 25th, 2025. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Dinner served at 6:00 p.m. Homemade Oyster Soup, ham, scalloped potatoes, baked beans, cabbage salad, rolls and dessert. Take out available. Adults \$25.00, Children 6-12 \$10.00, 5 and under free. For tickets, call Marion Woods 519-461-1136 or Jane Busche 519-268-3360.

**Thorndale United Church Annual Strawberry and Ham Supper** on Tuesday, May 20 at the Lions Community Centre, 4:30-7:00 p.m. Adults: \$25; 6-14: \$10; under 6: Free. Tickets are available until May 11 from Bob or Darlene Graham at 519-461-0463.

**Wanted:** People to knit or crochet small woollen hearts to be handed out at the Thames Centre Pride event this coming July 6. Rev. Mark has instruction sheets if you are willing and able.

**Correction:** The Celebration of Life for Mary Lee Patience will take place on Saturday, July 26 in the Beatty Room at the Thamesford Public Library from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## **LECTIONARY READINGS:**

April 13, 2025 (Sixth Sunday of Lent – a.k.a. Palm/Passion Sunday)

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

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