

**Sunday March 22, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Leading in Worship – Rev. Karlene Kimber

We Gather In God's Presence

Acknowledgement of the Land

For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. We are gathered on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron, Anishinabeg, Haudenosaunee, and Lunaapeewak peoples and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.

Prelude: "Open the Eyes of My Heart" Words and Music By Paul Baloche
Arranged by Kent Madema

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation

Lenten Candle Liturgy:

Why do we put out this candle?

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Call to Worship

Come faithful people and find that quiet centre where God may enter in.

We gather as God's people:

Hungry for holy presence,

Ready for God's Word to us.

Let us worship God.

Hymn

VU 374 Come and Find the Quiet Centre.

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Come and find the quiet centre
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter

Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!
Ω

Opening Prayer (in unison)

**Beginner of all things
Begin in us again
Take this tired limbs
And rouse them to dance your joy,
From sunbreak to sundown.
Help us,
O Blessed One,
To shake off our weariness
That we may know new life in you
And offer it to one another.
Amen.**

Anthem: "Forgive us, Lord, for passing by." (Let Justice Roll Like a River)

From: Then Let Us Sing!

A New Creed VU 918

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn MV 79 Spirit Open My Heart

Words: Ruth Duck, 1994. Music: traditional melody, Ireland; arr. Arthur G. Clyde, 1997

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

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.

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

We Open Ourselves to Receive God's Blessings

Responsive Reading: Psalm 130 (VU page. 853)

Out of the depths have I called to you.
O God, hear my cry!
Let your ears be attentive to my plea for mercy.
If you should keep account of what is done amiss,
O God, who could stand?
**But there is forgiveness with you,
therefore we will honour you.**

I wait for you, God;
my soul waits, and in your word is my hope.
**My soul waits for God
more than the watchers long for
morning, more than the watchers
long for morning.**

O Israel, wait in hope,
for with God there is love unfailing.
**With God is great power to redeem,
to redeem you, Israel, from all your sins.**

Scripture: John 11:1-45

Sermon: Resurrection and Resistance

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.

Ω

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

In this Lenten season, we remember that Jesus stood at the tomb and called life out of death.

We know that there are many places in our world where life is bound- by injustice, poverty, violence, exclusion. our giving is one way we roll back those stones. What we offer today joins Gods work of liberation and renewal, let us give as people who believe that new life is still possible.

Offertory Hymn: VU 129 vs. 5 "Said Judas to Mary" Words and Music: Sydney Carter, 1964.

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"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."

Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

God of life,

Take these gifts and use them to bring freedom where there is oppression, hope where there is despair, and life where it has been denied.

Unbind what is restricted. Restore what has been lost. call us to be part of this work.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Jesus, give us wisdom to discern evil; and in the face of all that is deceptively attractive, help us, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to choose the will of God, and so 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 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Closing Hymn VU 352 I Danced in the Morning

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Music: Shaker melody.

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I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came from heaven and I danced on the earth;
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain:

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you
may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance,
said he.

I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on.

Refrain:

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you
may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance,
said he.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and left me there on a cross to die.

Refrain:

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you
may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance,
said he.

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on.

Refrain:

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you
may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance,
said he.

They cut me down and I leap up high;
I am the life that will never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he.

Refrain:

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you
may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance,
said he.

Ω

Commissioning and Benediction

The one who is the Beginner of all things,
Calls life out of the shadow of death.
Speaks, and the stones of our hearts roll away;
Calls, and we rise from all that entombs us.

Go, enlivened by the Spirit of God
Moving in the rhythm of resurrection—
dancing, serving, loving, and living with courage.

Go now as witnesses of life renewed:
unbind one another,
speak hope where fear has settled,
and carry the light of Christ into every place still waiting to wake.

For the One who begins all things anew
blesses you with resurrection breath,
Christ walk beside you in every sorrow and joy,
and the Spirit set you free to live life unbound.

Sung Response: VU 961 “Let us, O God, Depart In Peace” George Whelpton, in the Public Domain.

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: “Here I am Lord” Dan Schutte Setting by John Carter

Announcements:

Creation Connection How will we repent and change our ways as stewards of creation when caring for refugees who need safe harbour from the climate crisis runs up against the temptation to worship the false idol of “ownership of land”? (Gathering, Lent/Easter 2026, page 10, Used with permission.)

Living with respect in Creation for Lent? Consider participating in these Canadian **Lenten Study:** As we journey toward Lent, the new Lenten devotional *Bless, Break, Share: Recipes for Faithful Living* invites you to a spiritual practice of reflecting on food and hunger. What do you hunger for? How do you feed others? What feeds your soul? initiatives.

<https://www.cpj.ca/fortheearth>

<https://easternsynod.org/call-for-climate-campaign-resources/>

<https://www.shiftaction.ca/>

Kitchen Conversations with the Moderator cont'd.

Videos will be posted on the United Church of Canada's YouTube channel
at <https://www.youtube.com/unitedchurchofcanada>

LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday, March 22, Fifth of Lent

Ezekiel 37: 1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8: 6-11; John 11:1-45

Sunday, March 29,

Palm/Passion Sunday

Palms – Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21: 1-11

Passion – Isaiah 50: 4-9a;

Psalm 31: 9-16; Philippians 2: 5-11; Matthew 26: 14-27:66 OR Matthew 27:11-54

Maundy Thursday, April 2

Exodus 12: 1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19;

1 Corinthians 11:23-26;

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday, April 3

Isaiah 52: 13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10: 16-25 OR

Hebrews 4: 14-16, 5:7-9;

John 18: 1-19:42

Sunday, April 5, Easter Sunday

(First of the season of Easter)

Acts 10: 34-43 OR Jeremiah 31: 1-6; Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24;

Colossians 3: 1-4

OR Acts 10: 34-43;

John 20: 1-18

OR Matthew 28: 1-10