

St. Paul's United Church

Sunday, February 26, 2023 – Lent 1

Minister: Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam
Music Director: Victoria Warwick
Guest Pianist: Amanda Clarke
Readers: Louise Leck, Shaun McIntosh
Music: St. Paul's Choir
Tech Team: Glenn Erwin, Gabriela & Rick Dell, Bruce Wilcox



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

CALL TO THE GATHERED (responsive) read by Shaun McIntosh

One: Lent is a time in which we begin the journey toward the cross.

**All: Lent is a time when we stop to ponder
the suffering of Jesus for us and our world.**

One: Lent is a time when we are reminded again to allow God to create a new heart within us.

**All: Lent is a time when we reminded to open our new hearts to God,
each other and those in need.**

One: Lent is here. The journey has begun.

All: Lent is here. Let us worship our God.

OPENING HYMN: VU#115 "Jesus, Tempted in the Desert"

1. Jesus, tempted in the desert, lonely, hungry, filled with dread:
"Use your power," the tempter tells him; "turn these barren rocks to bread!"
"Not alone by bread," he answers, "can the human heart be filled.
Only by the Word that calls us is our deepest hunger stilled!"
2. Jesus, temped at the temple, high above its ancient wall:
"Throw yourself from lofty turret; angels wait to break your fall!"
Jesus shuns such empty marvels, feats that fickle crowds request:
"God, whose grace protects, preserves us, we must never vainly test."
3. Jesus, temped on the mountain by the lure of vast domain:
"Fall before me! Be my servant! Glory, fame, you're sure to gain!"
Jesus sees the dazzling vision, turns his eyes another way:
"God, alone deserves our homage! God alone will I obey!"
4. When we face temptation's power, lonely, struggling, filled with dread,
Christ, who knew the tempter's hour, come and be our living bread.
By your grace, protect, preserve us lest we fall, your trust betray.
Yours, above all other voices, be the Word we hear, obey.

OPENING PRAYER: read by Shaun McIntosh

Gentle spirit, we have come through the growing excitement and light of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. Now we turn ourselves inward, now we shine the light we've found in our hearts to see what is there. Bless this time of reflection and guide our steps as we walk the Lenten road that leads through death to life.
Amen (*Nora Veress, Gathering L/E/P 2008*)



EXTINGUISHING THE LIGHT ON OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

SUNG RESPONSE: Sung Response VU #595, We Are Pilgrims, vs. 1, 3

We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road;
We are here to help each other, walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear

THEME CONVERSATION: (Children leave for Discovery Kids – Parents please meet your children in the Great Hall after church today)

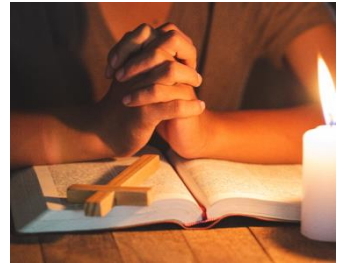
SCRIPTURE READINGS: Psalm 32; Matthew 4:1-11 read by Louise Leck

SERMON: "Sin – Hurting Others, Ourselves and God"

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "O Great God"

SUNG RESPONSE: "Give What You Can"

Give what you can, take what you need. For the body of Christ is enough to feed.
The hungry for Spirit and the thirsty for love.
Give thanks when you can to our God up above.



OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER read by Shaun McIntosh

CLOSING HYMN: VU#112 "O God How We Have Wandered"

1. O God, how we have wandered and hidden from your face;
in foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.
But how, in exile dwelling, we turn with fear and shame,
as distant but compelling, you call us each by name.
2. And now at length discerning the evil that we do,
by faith we are returning with hope and trust in you.
in haste you come to meet us, and home rejoicing bring,
in gladness there to greet us with call and robe and ring.
3. O God of all the living, both banished and restored,
compassionate, forgiving, our peace and hope assured.
Grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon and in peace.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION: "May the Christ Who Walks with Wounded Feet"

May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you on the road.
May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out your hands to serve.
May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart open your hearts to love;
when you leave this place may you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet,
and may everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you.

POSTLUDE