



Sun. March 5/23
Lent 2

Communion
St. Paul's United Church
Midland, On

Minister: Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam
Music Director: Victoria Warwick
Guest Pianist: Amanda Clarke
Readers: Doreen Gunson, Bruce Wilcox
Music: St. Paul's Choir, Singers and an Orchestra from 15 different countries
Tech Team: Glenn Erwin, Gabriela & Rick Dell, Bruce Wilcox

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

CALL TO THE GATHERED:

The Way of Lent is a path that we travel each year, as a time for us to remember Jesus' journey. On that journey, he met many people. In that meeting, they were blessed. In that blessing, many of them were changed. In that change, many of them shared what they had experienced. In that sharing, they changed the world. We are disciples of Christ, blessed by his teaching and blessed by his love. So, let's share who we are and what we have, that, in that sharing, we would be part of blessing God's world.

OPENING HYMN: VU# 108 "Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights"

1. Throughout these Lenten days and nights we turn to walk the inward way, where, meeting Christ, our guide and light, we live in hope till Easter Day.
2. The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God, who found in weakness greater power, embraces us, though lost and flawed, and leads us to his Rising Hour.
3. We bear the silence, cross and pain of human burdens, human strife, while sisters, brothers help sustain our courage till the Feast of Life.
4. And though the road is hard and steep, the Spirit ever calls us on through Calvary's dying, dark and deep, until we see the coming Dawn.
5. So let us choose the path of One who wore, for us, the crown of thorn, and slept in death that we might wake to life on Resurrection Morn!

OPENING PRAYER: Read by Doreen Gunson

God of smooth road, God of the rough places, God of the wilderness paths, thank you. Thank you for calling us out when we want to wrap ourselves up and hide. Thank you for giving us safe space when everything is just too much. Thank you for blessing all creation with your presence, and with your love. Open our hearts, we pray—open our minds—open our souls and, by your grace, fill them with your abundant love; not only so that we would be changed, not only so that we would be blessed, but so that we can be blessing and people of transformation, in your world.

In Jesus' name we ask it. Amen. From the U.C.C. Called to Be the Church: Lenten Services 2020

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

COMMUNION HYMN: VU #471 "Eat This Bread and Never Hunger"

Refrain:

**Eat this bread and never hunger, drink this cup and never thirst;
Christ invites us to the table where the last become the first.**

1. Asking for a cup of water, Jesus touched forbidden ground;
and the woman, with a question, told the world what she had found.

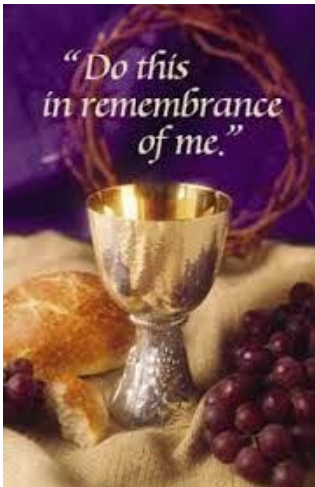
Refrain:

- 2 Walking down a desert highway, Jesus healed a man born blind;
soon the man became a witness to the truth we seek and find.

Refrain:

- 3 Weeping for his friend at graveside, Jesus felt the pain of death;
yet he knew God's power to waken: living water, living breath.

Refrain:



SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

VU #932(sung)

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are filled with your glory,**

Hosanna in the Highest!

Blessed is the one

who comes in your name,

Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION 2x MV#207

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Holy One, as we have gathered for communion, may we remember that we are your followers called to follow you. May the bread and the wine remind us that you are the bread of life and that you also know the cup of suffering. We pray for our broken world and ask your forgiveness for the ways in which we have contributed to the pain and struggles of others. May we forgive others and ourselves, as you forgive. Amen.

Children Leave for Discovery Kids

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Psalm 121, John 3:1-17 read by Bruce Wilcox

SERMON: A Journey through the Wilderness of the Soul

REMINDER ABOUT GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "For the Pleasure of the Lord"

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 Doreen Gunson

CLOSING HYMN: "You'll Never Walk Alone" (video drop) By Singers and an Orchestra from 15 different countries

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