



St. Paul's United Church

Sunday, March 19, 2023 – Lent 4

Minister: Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam

Music Director: Victoria Warwick

Readers: Terry MacPherson, Judy McConnell

Music: St. Paul's Choir, Fountainview Academy

Tech Team: Glenn Erwin, Gabriela & Rick Dell, Bruce Wilcox

WELCOME/ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND/CALL TO THE GATHERED:

OPENING HYMN: VU#371 "Open My Eyes, That I May See" (Music video) Please sing along.

1. Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.

Refrain: **Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

2. Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear. **Refrain:**
3. Open my mouth and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share. **Refrain:**

OPENING PRAYER: Read by Terry MacPherson Written by Laura Turnbull, Penticton, B.C. from Gathering L/E 2021 pg. 33

Timeless God, your radical message of inclusion is countercultural. You promise us welcome and belonging if we dare to open our hearts to discover siblings in Christ in each other. May the cry for justice, dignity, and equality be the song we each sing harmoniously. Guide our lives with the power of your all-encompassing love. Be with us in our worship. In the name of the liberating Christ, we pray. Amen

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)

SCRIPTURE READING: John 9:1-41 read by Judy McConnell

HYMN: VU#747 "The Lord's My Shepherd"

1. The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want; he makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me, the quiet waters by.
2. My soul he doth restore again, and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness, even for his own name's sake.
3. Yes, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
for thou art with me; and thy rod and staff me comfort still.
4. My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.
5. Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me,
and in God's house for evermore my dwelling place shall be.

SERMON:

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "Gather Us In"

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 Terry MacPherson

CLOSING HYMN: MV #179 Sisters Let Us Walk Together"

1. Sisters let us walk together, sharing sadness, loss and grief,
we will move through pain to wholeness, brokenness transformed to peace.
2. Brothers let us work together, seeking justice, healing shame,
filled with hope, imbued with courage, every violence we will name.
3. People let us love together, joining spirits, linking hands,
we are God's unique creation, clothed with dignity we'll stand.

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