

March 9 – Lent 1 Care and Compassion

Gathering and Preparation

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Check In: Talk about a time when you were “a helper.”

Gathering Music: Song of Praise Preview

Acknowledgement of the Land and Commitment to Reconciliation:

Ahniin, We acknowledge that the land on which St. Paul's United Church is located is the traditional land of the Wendat and Anishinaabe First Nations.

Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous People from across Turtle Island, including the Metis and our neighbours on Christian Island, Beausoleil First Nation. We are grateful to have the opportunity to worship and work on this land.

This week, we celebrate people like author, David Robertson of Norway House Cree Nation, who is using his success to encourage new Indigenous authors and illustrators across Canada. He has started a unique imprint within Random House publishing called, Swift Water. Its goal is to provide a low barrier place for Indigenous people to tell their own stories and educate children and youth.

We commit ourselves to walking in a new way together: a path of healing and hope. Chi-Meegwetch

Call to Worship

Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

**As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit,
even into the uncomfortable places.**

In those forty days, and in that place,

Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt, and temptation.

**As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led,
even into the uncomfortable choices.**

Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God,
rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

**As we continue on our path to faithfulness,
we will be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.**

So, let us worship

in this space that God is creating,

where all are embraced.

Together we become beloved community.

(Adapted from Lectionary Liturgies by Thom Shuman)

Song of Praise: VU #477 "I Come With Joy" Verses 1, 4, and 5

Opening Prayer Reader: Colin

God of the journey,

we wander through the wilderness

hoping to find what we are searching for.

As we search, may we be strengthened by your presence;

our water in the desert, our rainbow after the storm.

—a prayer from [*Why I Believe: Daily Devotions on Faith & Discipleship*](#) (UCPH, 2017)

Lighting of Christ Candle

Prayer:

As we light this Christ Candle,
may it remind us that Christ is in us and in our world.

Sung Response

Gather us in, ground us in you.
Gather us in, ground us in you.
Gather us in, gather us in,
Ground us, ground us in you.

Peace of Christ

Listening

Theme Conversation: Who responds? We do!

Children's Song: Like a Rock

The Story: Luke 10:25-42 Reader:

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

25 An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" 27 He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." 28 And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

29 But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' 36 Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" 37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Jesus Visits Martha and Mary

38 Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. 39 She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. 40 But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." 41 But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, 42 but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

Song for Reflection: Second hymn – VU#808 "On Eagle's Wings"

Sermon: Together on the Journey

Responding

Offering of Thanksgiving

What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.

Saint Augustine

Anthem – "Prayer for Peace"

Offertory Response VU#537 "Your Work, O God"

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.

Celebrations and Concerns

Prayers of the People Reader: Colin

Loving God,
we thank you for the journey of our lives,
with its ups and downs,
with its questions and challenges,
and with its moments of joy.
We thank you for the beauty around us,
for the hills and the trees,
for the snow and the weather,
for all that reminds us of life,
and life made new.
Today, we are especially thankful for the celebrations shared among us today.

In the quiet of this place,
we offer you our own celebrations.
(*A time for silent prayer*)

Even as we say "Thank you,"
we realize that there is brokenness in us
and in our world.
We realize that we have not always lived the love
to which you call us.
Sometimes by action or by inaction,
sometimes by just going along with things,
we have broken faith with each other,
and with you.
We offer to you, our brokenness, loving God,
not only asking that we would be forgiven,
but that, by your love, we would be made whole,
living in new ways, living out Christ's love.
Receive the prayers of our hearts, God.
(*A time for silent prayer*)

Knowing that we are forgiven,
knowing that we are loved,
we turn to the world, to love it into wholeness.
We pray for people living in desert-times in their lives,
people who are facing famine—of body or spirit,
people who are tempted to turn away from what is right and just;
and we pray for a world, all creatures, all places, facing destruction.
We remember especially the people and concerns
that have been recorded on our prayer list.

In the quiet of this place,
we offer you the prayers of our hearts.
(*A time for silent prayer*)

We pray for healing and wholeness,
and we ask that we would be a part of the solution,
loving God,
turning our prayer from words to actions.
Bless our journey, we pray,
sharing the words that Jesus gave all his disciples...

We pray to the one who loves us as a mother, who is 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 and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.

Going Forth

Song for the Journey: VU#410 "This Day God Gives Me"

Extinguishing of the Candles

Blessing

Closing: May The Christ Who Walks on 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

Beyond Sunday: Lenten Stations

If you are in person at St. Paul's, you will notice a couple of changes.

The first, is a Lenten activity related to forgiveness. Outside the minister's office is a table with sand and a stylus. You are invited to use that table as a physical meditation on forgiveness anytime you are in the building.

Maybe there is a person that you are angry with. Or perhaps there is a situation that you have been struggling with. Maybe you need to give yourself a break. Whatever it is, you are invited to write out the name or situation in the sand. Breathe. And then wipe the sand and clear it.

Actual forgiveness is not so easy. But maybe taking this step: naming it and then imagining letting it go, might be helpful for you as part of your spiritual journey.

The second, is the addition of a table in the sanctuary with candles. On Sunday mornings you are invited to light a candle as you pray for someone or something. There is a prayer book located on the table, and you are welcome to write your prayer concern in the book. This book will be in a public place so please do not include last names or details. We will reference the book in our prayers of the people.

If you are a part of our online community, please feel encouraged to email or message me before the service and we will light a candle for you and record your request in the book.

Blessings of peace and strength to all.
Rev Kirsty