

St. Paul's United Church
Sunday, February 25, 2024– Lent 2



Minister: Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam
Music Director: Victoria Warwick
Guest Pianist: Amanda Clarke
Readers: Julianna Shaw, Sheila Thompson
Music: St. Paul's Choir, Sharon Foster, Karen Moreau, Jane Smitham, Barbara Benson and Clark Bonney.
Tech Team: Glenn Erwin, Gabriela & Rick Dell, Bruce Wilcox

WELCOME/ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND/CALL TO THE GATHERED

OPENING HYMN: VU#633 "Bless Now, O God, the Journey"

1. Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence, the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.
2. Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way,
whose hope burns through the terrors, whose love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound.
Together we are seeking the road where faith is found.
3. Divine Eternal Lover, you meet us on the road.
We wait for lands of promise where milk and honey flow.
But waiting not for places, you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written on roads, as faith is found.

OPENING PRAYER: read by Sheila Thompson

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)

LORD'S PRAYER – SUNG

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Mark 8:31-38 read by Julianna Shaw

HYMN: VU#561 "Take Up Your Cross"

1. Take up your cross, the Saviour said, if you would my disciple be;
take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me.
2. Take up your cross; let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up, and brace your heart,
and nerve your arm.
3. Take up your cross, heed not the shame, nor let your foolish pride rebel;
your Saviour once accepted death upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.
4. Take up your cross, and follow Christ, think not till death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross may hope to wear
the glorious crown.

SERMON:**GIVING OF OUR GIFTS /OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "It Is Well With My Soul"****SUNG RESPONSE: "Give What You Can" /OFFERTORY PRAYER**

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE read by Sheila Thompson**CLOSING HYMN: VU#581 "When We Are Living"**

1. When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
we belong to God, we belong to God.
2. Through all our living, we our fruits must give.
Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving,
we belong to God, we belong to God.
3. 'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing
we belong to God, we belong to God.
4. Across this wide world, we shall always find
those who are crying with no peace of mind,
but when we help them, or when we feed them,
we belong to God, we belong to God.

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