



**1st Sunday of Lent
Communion Service
February 21, 2021**



Welcome & Announcements ~ Jan Richardson

Candle Lighting & Centering Song....

With all the choices we have in our lives, how do we choose God's way of love? Are there outcomes we try to avoid? Choices can be challenging. The Season of Lent is a time we can learn about that, as we walk with Jesus.

African American Spiritual~ Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

Video link: <https://youtu.be/Sbv-kYjak08>

Opening Prayer (unison)

God of the hungry times,
God of the difficult times,
God of all the times of our lives,
we need to talk.
Sometimes it's difficult to understand
the direction we need to go.
With all the choices we have in our lives,
sometimes we're not sure
when to say "Yes,"
or when to say "No."
So, we ask for your guidance.
We ask for wisdom.
We ask for Spirit.
In our worship, in our work,
in our choices, in our lives.
May it be so, loving God!
Amen.

https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/called_to_be_the_church_five_sundays_of_lent.pdf

Hymn ~ *Though I May Speak* #372 VU

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Congregational Theme/Story Time ~ *The Bad Seed*, by Jory John

a picture book read aloud https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqsGoiz-ufg&ab_channel=HarperKids

Scriptural Hymn ~ *When We Are Tested* #65 MV (alternate tune #642 VU)

Words by Ruth Duck, copyright © 1996 Hope Publishing Company. Music copyright © 2006 Ruth Watson Henderson. Used with permission of OneLicence.net Annual Renewal A-605521 Music: Irish traditional melody. Public Domain. Video version as recorded by Jennifer at Newport Presbyterian <https://youtu.be/4cPWvbYEw68>

Scripture Sharing ~ *Matthew 4:1-11* (readers' theatre version)

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

Minister's Message/Reflection

Invitation to Communion

The Way of Lent is a path that we travel each year. This is a time for us to remember Jesus' journey. On that journey he met many people. He laughed with them, he cried with them, he taught them, and he learned from them. But, most of all, he loved them, not only with his words, but by his actions. Jesus taught his followers that they were to love one another as he had loved them.

Communion Song: *Jesus Took the Bread* © 1998 Jim & Jean Strathdee

Video for Sing-a-Long: <https://strathdeemusic.com/JesusTookBread.html>

Communion Prayer

We come to remember the life and death of Jesus

And we will not forget the life of all your children

We receive the promise of liberation in Christ

And we will promote freedom and justice for all God's people

We recall his life of protest, praise, and love

And offer you our lives for uniting, not dividing, your world

May we not betray you

May we not betray them

Nor forget you

Nor forget them

Nor ignore you

Nor ignore them

At this holy feast where earth meets heaven

This holy place where there is room for all

We come with empty hands and open hearts

To share with people unseen from across your world

With people unseen from past and future

We meet at your crossroad of time and space

Revive us with life

Infuse us with love

At this holy feast

Where earth meets heaven

The table of Jesus

Where there is room for all

He whom the universe could not contain

Is present to us in this bread

(the bread is broken)

He who redeemed us and called us by name

Now meets us in this cup

(the juice is poured)

So, take this bread and this cup

In them God comes to us

So that we may come to God...

...even as we pray together as Jesus taught... **Our Father...**

This Communion prayer is from the CD *Life Death God* by Martin Wroe, Sticky Music 2002 and *Wee Worship Book*, Iona Community,

Wild goose Publications. <https://issuu.com/greenbeltfestival/docs/gb08-guide-composite>

Unison Prayer following Communion:

We thank you O God for the light of the sun and for the gentle rain, the fruits and flowers of the earth and the bread of life, which sustains both the physical and spiritual needs of humanity. For all your bounty and blessings, O God, we thank you. We pray that we may learn how to use your gifts wisely and well, so that in the end, we may come to you full of grace, returning a rich harvest of physical experience and spiritual life. Amen.

(From White Eagle) <http://www.ssam.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Jazz-Vespers-January-17-2016-MLK.pdf>

Closing Scripture (based on Numbers 6:24-26)

May God bless you and keep you.

May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace.

***Portions of this worship service were used/reprinted, with permission, from: *Called to Be the Church 2021: Worship Sampler* https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/2021-02/ctb-2021_worship-sampler.pdf

