

**Online Joint Worship for the Mid Fraser Cluster
Aldergrove, Gladwin Heights, St. Andrews
and Trinity Memorial United Churches**

**The Second Sunday of Lent
February 28th, 2021**

Thank you for Connecting for Worship
Today's Leadership includes
Preacher: The Rev. Bill Booth
Presiding: The Rev. Tracy Fairfield & The Rev. Tim Bowman
Musician: Donna Poncelet
Song Leader: Deborah Handley
Technical Support: Jeremy Wright

People are invited to share their prayers in the chat during the worship service.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**Words of Welcome, Announcements from Each Congregation and
Land Acknowledgement Bill**

Lighting the Rainbow Candles Tim

Lighting the Christ Candle Tracy (not on PPT)

(the candle is lit)

The Light of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Sung Response:

VU 121 - "Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery" [General Lenten verses 1 & 2]

*Light of life beyond conceiving, mighty spirit of our Lord,
give new strength to our believing,
give us faith to live your word, give us faith to live your word.*

*In our call to be a blessing,
may we be a blessing true, may we live and die confessing,
Christ as Lord of all we do, Christ as Lord of all we do.*

Call to Worship: Bill

**Lent calls us to journey, this and every day,
following Jesus wherever he leads us.**

Lent calls us to worship together, to tell future generations the good news.

Lent calls us to practice justice, to bring God's hope to all people.

Lent calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life.

**Lent calls each of us to take up our cross, to trust the
One who bears it with us.**

Lent calls us to journey with God.

Let us worship God, who walks with us, this, and every day.

Opening Prayer: Bill (not in unison)

Lent unfolds before us, like a rocky path, like a climbing staircase, like a mountain journey, like a healing stream. We are near the beginning, O God, yet much is yet to come. Bless our perseverance, bless our intention, bless our way, for without you this journey is nothing but empty steps, wasted time, and lost moments of reconciliation and healing. Amen.

Written by Kate Crawford. *Gathering L/E* 2015. Pg. 31. Used with permission.)

Hymn: “Called by Earth and Sky” MV 135

***Chorus) Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified, called by earth and sky.***

*Precious, these waters, endless seas, deep ocean’s dream, waters of healing,
rivers of rain, the wash of love again. **Chorus)***

*Precious this gift, the air we breathe; wind born and free.
Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place,
our gathering and our grace. **Chorus)***

*Precious these mountains, ancient sands; vast fragile land.
Seeds of our wakening rooted and strong,
Creation’s faithful song. **Chorus)***

*Precious the fire that lights our way, bright dawning day.
Fire of passion, sorrows undone,
our faith and justice one. **Chorus)***

Time with our Children: Tim

Hymn: “God of the Sparrow” VU 229 (vs. 1, 6)

*God of the sparrow God of the whale God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe, How does the creature say Praise*

*God of the ages God near at hand God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy, How do your children say Home*

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

We invite the children and their leaders into breakout rooms

Scripture Readings: Romans 4:13-35 God’s Promise Realized through Faith

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶ For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was

already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.

²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² Therefore his faith^[b] "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³ Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Mark 8: 31 – 38 :_Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "The Blessings in the Struggle" **Bill**

Hymn: "Like a Healing Stream" MV 144

Like a healing stream in a barren desert, Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,

God is trickling through our lives as in a dream
unfolding, promising revival and rebirth... like a healing stream.

Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden, Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,

God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new
creation, yearning for an end to want and need...like a gentle rain.

Like a river strong with a restless current, Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,

God is carving out a channel in a new
direction, calling for an end to hate and war... like a river strong.

Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,

God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow: God will always challenge
and provide! Like a mighty sea, like a river strong,
like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

Prayer of Confession Tracy

God of the cross, in this holy place, we know how weak is our discipleship. We can spend hours at the computer, but only give you fleeting moments of our time. We can talk endlessly on our cell phones, but fall silent when it comes to sharing our fears, our worries, our hopes with you. We seek quick fixes for our problems, rather than seeking your vision and future for our lives. God of Peter and Paul, forgive us: for our lack of trust; for our faithless living; for our closing our ears to the call of Jesus. Forgive us, so we may lay aside all that keeps us from you, so we may take up the life you offer to us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Assurance Tracy (not in unison)

This is the good news: God does not go back on the promises he made so long ago. God does not reject us, God redeems us. God does not withhold love, God pours it into our barren lives. Forgiven of sins, filled with hope, living in relationship with God and one another – we are a new people. Thanks be to God.

Hymn: “O Beautiful Gaia” MV 41

**Chorus: O beautiful Gaia, O Gaia, calling us home.
O beautiful Gaia, calling us on.**

*Soil yielding its harvest, O Gaia, calling us home.
Soil yielding its harvest, calling us on. Chorus:*

*Waves crashing on granite, O Gaia, calling us home.
Waves crashing on granite, calling us on. Chorus:*

*Pine bending in windstorm, O Gaia, calling us home.
Pine bending in windstorm, calling us on. Chorus:*

*Loon nesting in marshland, O Gaia, calling us home.
Loon nesting in marshland, calling us on. Chorus:*

WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND ACTION

Prayers of the People and all the World: Tracy

Prayers shared from the chat: Tim

Holy God, you hear our words; you hear our hearts. We are known and heard deeply, graciously, constantly. Confident in this grace, we speak together the words that Jesus taught us...

The Lord's Prayer [Spoken]

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, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Acknowledging Our Gifts for the Work of God & Prayer of Dedication: Tim

We bring our offerings for God's work among us in many ways:
cash and cheques mailed or dropped off; Pre-Authorized Remittance and our online donations; our time and our work, for God's work among us.

Doxology: VU 538 - "For the Gift of Creation"

*For the gift of creation, the gift of your love, and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.*

Prayer of Dedication: Tim

As Jesus offered himself for baptism, so we offer ourselves.
As your Spirit settled on Jesus, settle upon these gifts.
Use them; use us; call us to your Way,
to the Cross and beyond.

Hymn: "O Jesus, I Have Promised" VU 120

*O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain for ever near me, my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.*

*O let me feel you near me: the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer and shield my soul from sin.*

*O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
now speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul.*

*O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you,
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Saviour and my friend.*

Blessing and Sending Forth: Bill

Sung Response: VU 318 - "Christ Be With Me"

*Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me.*

*Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.*

Postlude

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