



GLADWIN HEIGHTS UNITED CHURCH

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March 6 2022 Monthly Announcements

Minister: Rev. Tim Bowman

Song Leader: Rita Green

Pianist: Jacob Greenan

Office Administrator: Angela Darychuk



We look forward to seeing you all *in person* this Sunday!
Worship is at 9:30

We are checking COVID vaccination status and please remember that masks will be mandatory for everyone over the age of 5. There are no exceptions aside from choir members, music leaders and readers/presiders while speaking or singing and physically distanced. There will be a sign in sheet for everyone to sign.

We are broadcasting the Service via Facebook Live, for those of you who can't make it in person. Just go to the Gladwin Heights Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/Gladwin-Heights-United-Church-699893126828536>) and look for the Service by date. The live broadcast time will be 9:30 am. Please note if you can't make it at 9:30 you can view it anytime on Facebook.



LENT

Reading for March 6 2022

Deuteronomy 26: 1-11

Luke 4: 1-13

Hymns for March 6 2022

MV 28 – “God of the Bible”

VU 460 - "All Who Hunger"

Hymn – “When Our Lives Are Ruled by Fear”

MV 196 – “We Will Take What You Offer”



Upcoming happenings

Annual General Meeting March 6 2022

Our AGM will be held after worship on Sunday, March 6, 2022. If you wish to join via Zoom, open your Zoom client or navigate via Browser to Zoom.us.

Meeting ID: 541 063 2114. Password: 123. To join via telephone, call 1-778-907-2071.

March Birthdays March Birthdays

Ellen Alstad.	March 9
Helena Assels.	March 22

Glad Andy's

**Our Coldest night walk was huge success.
We raised \$2560 for First United.
Well done Glad Andy's**

March Lectionary

First Sunday in Lent March 6

Deuteronomy 26:1–11
Psalm 91:1–2, 9–16
Romans 10:8b–13
Luke 4:1–13

Second Sunday in Lent March 13

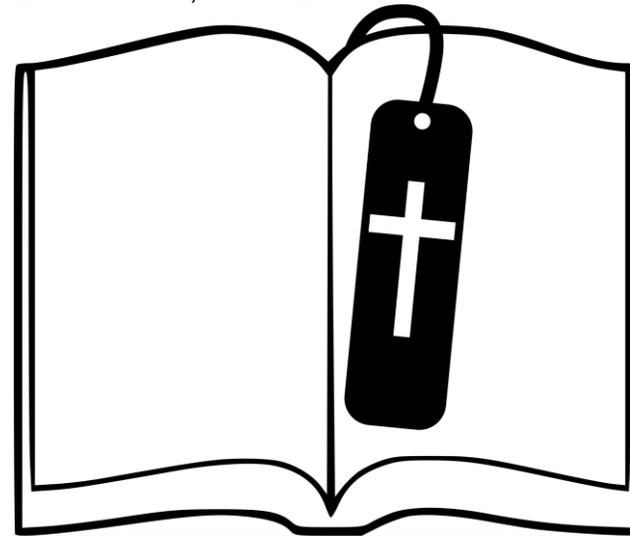
Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17—4:1
Luke 13:31–35
or Luke 9:28–36, (37–43a)

Third Sunday in Lent March 20

Isaiah 55:1–9
Psalm 63:1–8
1 Corinthians 10:1–13
Luke 13:1–9

Fourth Sunday in Lent March 27

Joshua 5:9–12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16–21
Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32



Minster's Message

Siblings in Christ,

Can we pray for Ukraine? Can we *not* pray for Ukraine? What do we mean when we say we are praying for Ukraine?

A colleague recently posted on Facebook that for their Ash Wednesday service they are displaying a Ukrainian flag in their Ash Wednesday service and wondered about a symbol for the Russian people as well (as opposed to the Russian flag which would symbolize its government).

I wonder: what does it mean to pray for Ukraine and for peace? This is an unjustifiable war with a clear aggressor. I have been inspired by the spirited resistance of the Ukrainian people and their military. It seems that only a combination of military difficulties and economic pain (probably both are necessary) have a likelihood of causing President Putin, willingly or unwillingly, to recall his military. But each Ukrainian success means another Russian, another beloved child of God, who suffers and dies.

If I worship a God of Justice, that implies occasionally taking sides as I try to think with the mind of God and feel with the heart of God. Yet I cannot believe that God desires warfare with its death and suffering.

I have considered outright pacifism but cannot in the end sustain that view. I think the truth is closer to the idea that, in an imperfect world, we sometimes have to choose the least bad path. Could it be that choosing to fight or praying for the success of those who do, is a sin that we must accept because failing to do so is worse? But to do so implies that there is some part of Creation, some aspect of human experience, that is outside of God's love and presence. I can't affirm that.

The best I can do, I think, is this: horrible things happen in the world. Some of it is natural evil (cells become cancerous) and some of it is human evil (a dictator invades a neighbouring country). God does not will any of this, but God is present in and experiences the heartache of all involved. In every moment God invites us to choose the good. God invites every Russian and Ukrainian soldier to choose the most life-giving path open to them (none of which may be objectively "good" in a perfect world). God dwells with murdering and murdered soldiers and murdered civilians, walking with them as they approach death and with their loved ones as they grieve.

God offers me and you choices as well, for we live in a world in which all of this happens. If I pray for Ukraine and for peace, I can pray, not that God will miraculously stop the bullets and the bombs, but that God will show me the path that best leads to peace, beauty and wholeness for the world.

I hope that in some way this is helpful to you, and I look forward to your wisdom as well.

Yours in Christ,

Tim

Board Members

Chair – Gayle LaPointe
Secretary – Gina Hartley
Treasurer – Muriel Thomas
M & P Rep – Lois Chatham
Pastoral Care & Outreach – Arlene Kropp
Property Inside – Len & Carlene Stein
Property Outside – Daryl & Ellen Alstad
Sunday Morning Coordinator – Gladys Banks
UCW President – Carlene Stein
Affirming Ministry – Patricia Lockhart

Trustees:

Jenny Matthews
Laura Bailey
Charles Bailey
Jan Green
Tim Bowman

Members of Joint Committees

with St. Andrews

Joint Board:

Gayle LaPointe
Arlene Kropp
Gladys Banks

Joint M & P:

Lois Chatham
Kate Jordan

Joint Worship:

Rita Green
Carlene Stein
Arlene Kropp

Mid Fraser Affirming Committee:

Patricia Lockhart

Church office hours:

St. Andrews' office is open 9:30am – 3:00 pm, Wednesday
Gladwin Heights office is open 9:30am – 3:00 pm, **Thursday**
Remote office hours for both Gladwin Heights and St Andrews'
are Monday and Tuesday 9 am to 4 pm

Reverend Tim's office hours:

Tim can be reached from 10am - 4pm Monday and Wednesday
at St Andrew's office, 10am to 4pm Thursday at Gladwin's
office. Please check for availability.

Tim's contact is: 778-791-3545, or bowmantimothy@gmail.com



welcome

Thank you for being a part of the most successful First United CNOY ever!

What a day!

Ready to go!

Almost there! We can do it!

These were the words we kept hearing as we checked in the 140 Coldest Night of the Year participants who came out to fundraise and walk across Vancouver in support of our mission to provide advocacy, survival-supports, and sanctuary in the heart of the Downtown Eastside.

The results of your combined efforts were astronomical: 36 teams, consisting of 176 walkers and 937 donors, collectively **raised \$94,447** so far — a new CNOY record for First United! Our captains and walkers truly knocked it out of the park! This puts us at 94% of our \$100,000 goal, with donations continuing to pour in as I am writing this.

The **energy, passion, and determination** for real change that you collectively brought on Saturday's Coldest Night of the Year was contagious, and will not be soon forgotten by those who were lucky enough to witness it.

We were also extremely fortunate to have a dogged contingent of virtual walkers, who picked up their toques

early and marched up and down their own hills and trails in defiance of the systemic issues that keep many in the DTES in a cycle of poverty and homelessness. **We salute you, virtual walkers!**

We would be remiss to not give a hearty thank you to our volunteers. They showed up early, stayed late, and lived up to First United's legendary history of having among the most committed volunteers this side of the Rockies! **Without them, we wouldn't have been able to pull it off.**

Decision makers in the community took notice as their constituents braved the cold to take initiative: **City Councillor Christine Boyle** and **MP Jenny Kwan** walked with our **Executive Director Carmen Lansdowne**, to show their support of First United and the challenges facing those who live in the Downtown Eastside.

It was a rainy and cold day, made incredible and hopeful by compassionate and warm people of all backgrounds who wanted to make a difference for their neighbors in the community. And what a difference they made!

On a personal note, it was a true pleasure to work with and get to know every single one of you.

Another phrase we heard over and over from our captains and walkers as they pulled on their golden toques and headed out the door: *Wait till next year.* In that case, **see you then!**

Will Goldbeck
First United