

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH

April 3, 2022

Lent 5



"This is the posture that Jesus calls all of us into; a profoundly uncomfortable, shockingly reverent position; coming face to face, intimately engaging with the residue of Christ's footsteps to smell and almost taste the journey of Christ."

Title: Anointed

Artist: Lauren Pittman Wright

Year: 2018

***Growing and Deepening our Spiritual Lives in an
Affirming and Inclusive community***

Welcome to St. David's United Church

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April 3, 2022

Presiding: Amy Haynes

We gather in faith as a Christ-infused church

(Welcome to worship today. Whether you are worshipping with us today for the first time or you have been here for longer than you can remember, you are welcome to be here and to participate however you feel comfortable. Regardless of your age, stage, gender, sexual identity, or how great or small you feel your faith is we each bring something of ourselves to this sacred space. God welcomes each of us to worship.)

SEED OF MEDITATION

There is in us an instinct for newness, for renewal, for a liberation of creative power. We seek to awaken in ourselves a force which really changes our lives from within. And yet the same instinct tells us that this change is a recovery of that which is deepest, most original, most personal in ourselves. To be born again is not to become somebody else, but to become ourselves.

-Thomas Merton

PRELUDE Improvisation

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Holy One does great things for us!

Like water in the wilderness and rivers in the desert,

God meets us in times of trial.

Like the companionship of our closest friends,

God goes alongside us.

Like the satisfaction that comes after feasting at table,

God nourishes us on the journey.

With joy, let us seek the way of Love, trusting in the promises of God.

OPENING PRAYER

Take flesh in our hands,
that they might cook meals that nourish,
plant seeds that grow life,
create art that inspires,
touch tenderly bodies that ache.
Take flesh in our feet,
that wherever we may find ourselves:
kitchen tables,
altars,
bars,
hospitals,
prisons,
bedrooms,
sites of conflict,
places of peace,
we will be rooted
in the assurance of
our power and possibilities.
Take flesh in our voice,
that we might
call for the mighty to be torn from their thrones,
speak words of compassion and love,
and whisper "thank you"
to every source of beauty that upholds us.
Take flesh in our gut, in our bones, in our deepest places of knowing
that we might listen
to that which moves us without words,
to the wisdom of feeling,
to that which we have silenced
by the tyranny of reason.
Take flesh in our skin,
our curves,
our wrinkles,
our scars,
in every detail of these bodies,
that we might begin to honour
the holy we wear.
Take flesh in our eyes
that we might weep

tears worthy of
all that has been lost,
all that has been taken,
all that has been betrayed.
Take flesh, O God,
in our beating hearts,
that we might
keep fighting for collective life,
keep believing in divine possibilities,
keep loving despite our trembling,
keep turning towards each other.
Come, O come, Emmanuel.

OPENING HYMN

River

MV #3

River, rush-a-down to the ocean blue,
River from a mountain high.
River, as you do what rivers do,
River, draw the Spirit nigh.

Spirit, come-a-down to the riverside,
Spirit, spark of wondrous thought.
Spirit I am free for you to guide.
Spirit, pray that I be taught!

Water, let me drink of your healing pow'r,
Water, strength and life you give.
Water, as I travel with each hour,
Water, help my body live.

River, flow-a-down where you ran before,
River, source of clearer view.
River, as I walk your rocky shore,
River, see my journey through. See my journey through.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You asked for my hands,
That you might use them for your purpose.
**I gave them for a moment, and then withdrew them for the work
was hard.**

You asked for my mouth,
To speak out against injustice.

I gave you a whisper, that I might not be accused.

**You asked for my eyes,
To see the pain of poverty.**
I closed them for I did not want to see.

**You asked for my life,
That you might work through me.**
I have a small part, that I might not get too involved.

**O Holy One, forgive me for my calculated efforts to serve you
only when it is convenient for me to do so,
only in those places where it is safe to do so,
and only with those who make it easy to do so.**

**O Merciful One, forgive me,
renew me,
send me out as a useable instrument,
that I might take seriously the meaning of your cross.**
(South Africa)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

JOURNEY STORY (MIKE TREW)

ANTHEM Be Thou My Vision Irish folk melody/arr. John Rutter

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126 (refrain #2), John 12:1-8

Psalm 126

Refrain 2

Walker's Southern Harmony 1893
barr. Erik Routley 1976

We praise the One who gave the growth, with
voi - ces full and strong.

Harmony copyright © 1976 Harlow Music, Inc.

REFLECTION

ANTHEM

At His Name

Joel Raney

PASSING THE PEACE

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

VU #959

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil

for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,

now and forever.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING/COMMISSIONING

CLOSING HYMN

A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar

VU #590

1 A prophet-woman broke a jar,

by Love's divine appointing.

With rare perfume she filled the room,

presiding and anointing.

A prophet-woman broke a jar,

the sneers of scorn defying.

With rare perfume she filled the room,

preparing Christ for dying.

2 A faithful woman left a tomb

by Love's divine commission.

She saw, she heard, she preached the Word,

arising from submission.

A faithful woman left a tomb,
with resurrection gospel.
She saw, she heard, she preached the Word,
apostle to apostles.

3 Though woman-wisdom, woman-truth,
 for centuries were hidden,
 unsung, unwritten, and unheard,
 derided and forbidden,
the Spirit's breath, the Spirit's fire,
 on free and slave descending,
can tumble our dividing walls,
 our shame and sadness mending.

4 The Spirit knows, the Spirit calls,
 by Love's divine ordaining,
the friends we need to serve and lead,
 their powers and gifts unchaining.
The Spirit knows, the Spirit calls,
 from women, men, and children,
the friends we need, to serve and lead.
 Rejoice, and make them welcome!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Improvisation

THANKS TO THOSE ASSISTING WITH OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Scripture Reader.....Mike Trew
Music..... Sanctuary Choir
Accompanist.....Colleen Charter
 PSALT & Tech Team
 Sacred Service Team