

First United Church

February 26, 2023

10:30 a.m.

First Sunday in Lent

Black History Month



Purpose: Building Relationships,
Living God's Transforming Love.

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- Is a request to stand in body or in spirit

Prelude Lift Ev'ry Voice and Hymn to Freedom

Lee Willingham

Listening as we Gather

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

One: We begin our service with gratitude and respect as we remember together that this land, this planet is sacred. We are on holy ground.

All: Earth is our only home, and we are related to it as part of the web of life.

One: We lament that we have not honoured our deep relationship with the earth. The climate crisis is one result of our overconsumption and wastefulness. We commit to learning and practicing better care for the earth.

For thousands of years, Indigenous people have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and their spirituality. We are gathered on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Chonnoton, and Anishinaabe and acknowledge their stewardship of the land throughout the ages. We lament that we have not honoured their ways, nor their spirituality and we all live with the consequences.

All: We seek to live into right relationship with all Indigenous people with whom we share the land. We commit to listening to and respecting their wisdom.

One: We aspire to create a safer space for everyone. We welcome you and the gifts you bring a part of your sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, race, cultural background or abilities.

Opportunities for Ministry and Fellowship

• Introit And on This Path

MV 8

Lighting of the Christ Candle and procession of the Word

- **Call to Worship**

One: Come, our Lenten journey begins.

All: What will see on this journey? What will we hear? In what ways will our hearts be touched?

One: We will hear the stories of Jesus' journey to the cross. We may see more deeply into our lives. Our hearts may be mysteriously broken open to a deeper love.

All: Come let us journey with Jesus for God goes with us all the way.

- **Opening Hymn** Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights VU 108

Prayer of Approach

Listening For God's Word

Ministry of Music: Come On, Children to the Gospel Feast Mark Morgan
Peace Like a River, Kum Ba Yah
Spirituals, arr. J. A. Shafferman
Family Choir; Isaac Morland, piano

A Black History Month Video Reflection

- **Hymn** Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound VU 266

Readings from Our Tradition

Matthew 4: 1-11 (Reader: Cathie Savage)

One: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Ministry of Music: I Want Jesus to Walk with Me Spiritual, arr. L. Shackley
Gallery Choir; Kate Markwart, soloist

Sermon: The Deeper Journey

• **Hymn** Jesus, Tempted in the Desert

VU 115

Responding to God's Word

Time of Offering

Offertory Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley Spiritual, Dale Wood

• **Dedication of Offering** We Give You But Your Own VU 542

Prayer of Dedication:

All: Bounteous Creator, for all that you give, thank you. These gifts we bring are a token of our thanks, bless them and us we pray. May we and they show forth your love to all creation. We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen

Call to Prayer Cradle Me in Your Arms

MV 91

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

• **Sending Hymn** Over My Head

MV 88

Sending Forth and Benediction

• **Benediction Response** Threefold Amen

VU 967

Recession of the Light and Word

Postlude: Lift Every Voice and Sing

J. Rosamund Johnson