

First United Church

March 5, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday in Lent



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

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- Is a request to stand in body or in spirit

Prelude Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Franklin Ashdown

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 Lord God, You Love Us

MV 100

Lighting of the Christ Candle and procession of the Word

- **Call to Worship**

One: Welcome fellow pilgrims, our Lenten journey continues.

All: We are learning to follow Jesus.

One: When God says, "Go!" without telling us the destination,

All: Jesus shows us how to move forward in faith.

One: When re-birth seems the impossible way forward,

All: Jesus is our midwife inviting us into life reborn.

One: When we find ourselves in the in-between of where we have been and where we are going,

All: Jesus meets us on the way and blesses us in our going.

One: Fellow pilgrims on the way, come let us worship God!

- **Opening Hymn** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

VU 333

Prayer of Approach

Listening For God's Word

A Message from The Moderator

Readings from Our Tradition

Genesis 12: 1-4a

(Reader: Nola Mott)

One: Herein is wisdom.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Psalm 121: Unto the Hills

VU 842

Matthew 4: 1-11

One: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Ministry of Music: God So Loved the World

Stainer

Sermon: New Beginnings, Ambiguous Endings

• **Hymn** Nicodemus Sought out Jesus tune: NETTLETON,
text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Responding to God's Word

Time of Offering

Offertory What wondrous love is this? arr. D. Wagner

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

Prayer of Dedication:

All: Holy One, you call us out of our scarcity to live into your abundance. You call us from our self concern to an open-hearted care for others. These gifts are a small token of our response to your call. Bless these gifts and us that working together we may be faithful to your call. Amen

Call to Prayer O God, Hear my Prayer VU 948

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

• **Sending Hymn** To Abraham and Sarah VU 634

Sending Forth and Benediction

• **Benediction Response** Threefold Amen VU 967

Recession of the Light and Word

Postlude: Aria and Dance on NUN DANKET Jan Overduin
Now Thank We All Our God