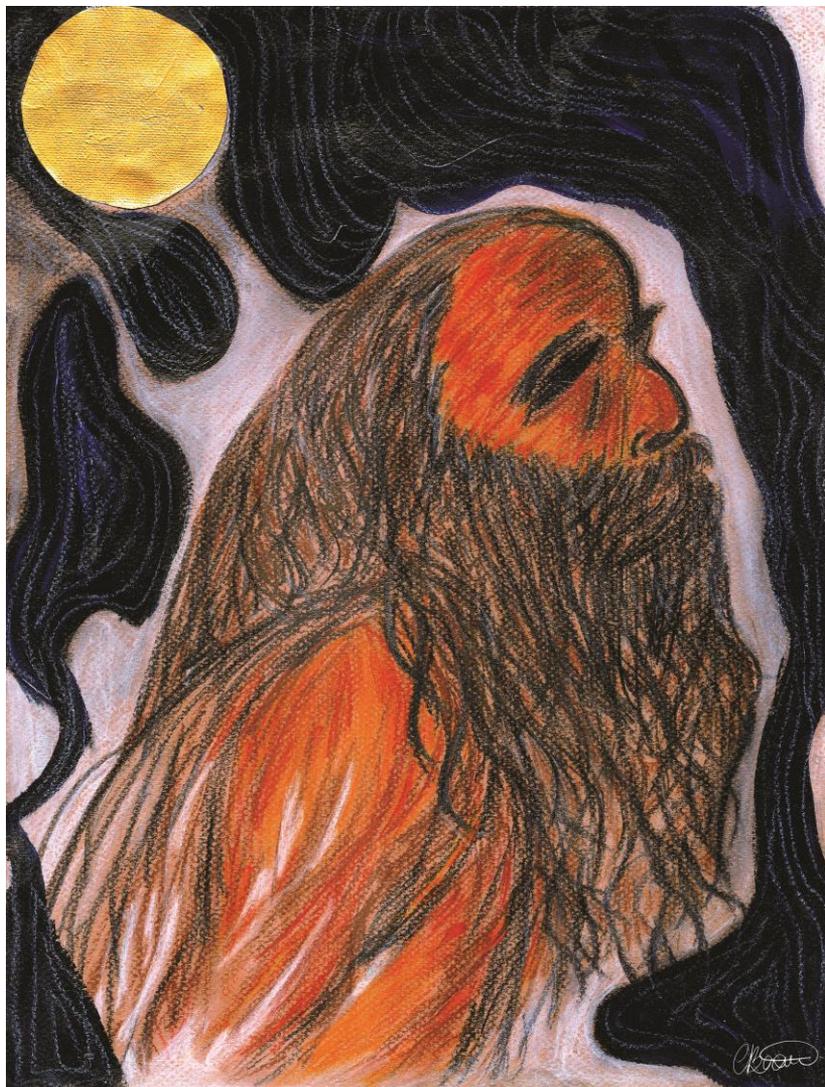




THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

CLOVERDALE
UNITED CHURCH



*"Renacimiento" by Carmelle Beaugelin
inspired by John 3:1-17*

The 2nd Sunday in Lent
A Service of Word & Feast

5 March 2023 • 10:30 AM

Welcome to Cloverdale United Church! As we say at nearly every worship service, “No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey God welcomes you... and so do we.” We take these words seriously. We strive to be a community as diverse and hospitable as God’s kingdom. We don’t all look or act alike; God knows we don’t all think alike. We don’t all read the Bible the same way. We come from different religious backgrounds, we bring different questions, and we carry different burdens. But every Sunday, we gather and worship God together as one.

In this lovely old church, we do Sunday morning in some fairly traditional ways. We study the teachings and the actions of Jesus. We gather around the waters of grace and the feast table of Christ, just as Christians have done for nearly two thousand years. Some of the songs we sing (certainly not *all* of them, though) are ones our grandparents might also have sung in their day. And yet, amidst rituals and rites rooting us in a deep heritage, we wrestle with the challenges of the modern world and we listen for God’s Spirit still speaking into our lives today. We hope your heart will hear something personal and relevant this morning—a word of comfort, a spur to action, a call to a deeper relationship with God.

After the service, please stick around. Have a cup of coffee or a bite to eat with us. Introduce yourself to other worshippers or our pastor. There are plenty of opportunities here to feed your soul and expand your spirit. Try one out. You never know—you just might be home!

Children are welcome at all services! It is important for families to worship together. Don’t feel your child must be absolutely quiet or still, for we are glad to have children—and all their wiggles, giggles, and squiggles—as part of our community and worship life! After all... as an old saying goes, “faith is caught, not taught!”

 **Washrooms** can be found just outside the sanctuary through the door at the front right of the space (the northeast corner of the room).

 Thank you for **silencing cell phones** and other devices, and for refraining from flash photography.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion: *All* are welcome, including children, to share in the feast at Christ’s table. We usually celebrate Communion on the first Sunday of each month, as well as on certain other holy days.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism: We gladly offer the sign and seal of God’s grace in the waters of baptism, both to children and adults of any age. *For more information, contact the minister.*

The language of worship is rich and diverse, and yet always inadequate to express the fullness of the divine. In our worship, we strive to use *inclusive* language for humanity and *expansive* imagery for the divine, while respecting the poetry and imagery of texts handed down to us from the ages. Honouring our diversity, in those places where we speak or sing together, worshippers may use language with which they are comfortable or familiar.

The 2nd Sunday in Lent

“There is never an act of faith without risk.”

— Eric James

As you are able, whether in body or in spirit, please rise for those parts marked with an asterisk ‘’*

*Please remember to **silence cell phones** and other devices, and be mindful of those who wish to use the prelude as a time of prayer, meditation, and preparation for worship.*

GATHERING 모임

The Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day, the day of Christ’s resurrection

Prelude 전주

Emma Rui-Xuan Shi

Greeting 인사

The Rev. Matthew Emery

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

Call to Worship 예배로 부름

One: What is it like to begin again?

**Many: It is like flowers in the spring that push through frozen ground.
It is like babies learning to walk, one clumsy step at a time.
It is like Nicodemus in the night, asking Jesus for guidance.
It is like a Sunday morning, starting our week anew.**

One: May we find God in our seeking.

Many: May we learn as we go.

One: May we be brave enough to begin again.

Many: Let us worship the God of new beginnings.

*** Hymn 찬송** — “The Living God Be Praised”

Voices United #255

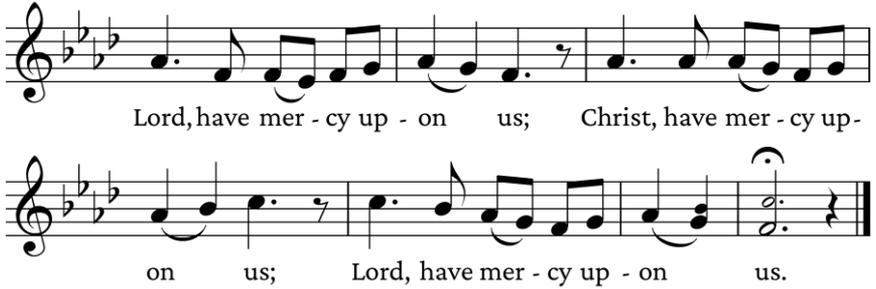
Confession and Forgiveness 죄의 고백과 용서

CALL TO CONFESSION 고백으로의 초청

PRAYER OF CONFESSION 죄의 고백

**Many: God of new life, you call us into unknown places,
and we bury our heads in the sand.
You promise all the stars in the sky,
and we doubt it can be true.
You speak of new life in the Spirit,
and we tell ourselves we’ve missed our chance.
Over and over and over again, you invite us closer to you.
Show us the way. Forgive our mistakes.
Give us the courage to begin again with you.**

Quiet is kept for personal confession and reflection.



ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS 용서의 선언

One: ... Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

Many: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

THE PEACE 평화의 인사

One: 그리스도의 평화가 당신과 함께 하시기를 .

The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

All are invited to share signs of Christ's peace with those around them.

Words of Welcome & News from Our Life Together 교회소식

WORD 말씀

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

Anthem — “Walk with Me” by Langdon, arr. McCall

The Choir

Walk with me, walk with me, lest mine eyes no longer see all the glory, all the story of your love.
 Talk to me, talk to me, like you spoke so tenderly, when you talked there,
 when you walked there by the sea, the sea.,
 Let me follow in the footsteps. That trod the shore of Galilee,
 Let me learn to pray like He did in the garden of Gethsemane;
 Take my hand, take my hand, teach me, Lord, to understand all my duty;
 All the beauty of Your love, all my duty, all the beauty of Your Love.

The Early Word 어린이 설교

Robyn Garland

ending with **The Lord's Prayer** 회중기도와 주기도

<p>Many: 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.</p>	<p>하늘에 계신 우리 아버지여, 이름이 거룩히 여김을 받으시오며, 나라이 임하옵시며, 뜻이 하늘에서 이룬 것같이 땅에서도 이루어지이다. 오늘날 우리에게 일용할 양식을 주옵시고, 우리가 우리에게 죄 지은 자를 사하여 준 것같이 우리</p>
---	--

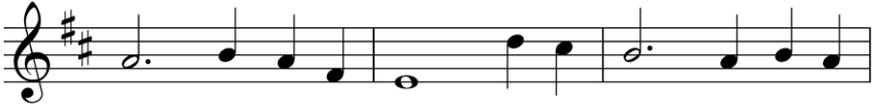
And lead us not into temptation, 죄를 사하여 주옵시고, 우리를
 but deliver us from evil, 시험에 들게 하지 마옵시고,
 for Thine is the Kingdom, 다만 악에서 구하옵소서. 대개
 the power, and the glory, 나라와 권세와 영광이 아버지께
 for ever and ever. Amen. 영원히 있사옵나이다. 아멘.

Refrain 찬송 — “Come to Me, O Weary Traveller”

AUSTIN



before the readings “Come to me, O wea-ry trav - eller; come to
 after the readings “Rest in me, O wea-ry trav - eller; rest in



me with your dis - tress; come to me, you heav - y -
 me and do not fear. Rest in me, my heart is



bur - dened; come to me and find your rest.”
 gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care.”

First Reading 성경봉독 — Genesis 12:1-4a

pew bibles OT p. 10

God’s call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

after the reading:

One: Word of God, Word of Life.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading 성경봉독 — John 3:1-17

pew bibles NT p. 93

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

IN ENGLISH

after the reading:

One: Word of God, Word of Life.

Many: Thanks be to God.

IN KOREAN

after the reading:

One: 아멘 (Amen).

Many: 아멘 (Amen).

Refrain 찬송 — “Come to Me, O Weary Traveller”

see music above

**“Rest in me, O weary traveller; rest in me and do not fear.
Rest in me, my heart is gentle; rest and cast away your care.”**

Sermon 설교 — “Seeking: How do we begin again?”

a time of quiet follows the sermon

*** Hymn 찬송** — “This Is a Day of New Beginnings”

BEGINNINGS



1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings,
2 For by the life and death of Je - sus,
3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing,
4 In faith we'll gath - er 'round the ta - ble



time to re - mem - ber and move on,
God's might - y Spir - it, now as then,
step from the past and leave be - hind
to taste and share what love can do.



time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,
can make for us a world of dif - ference,
our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and griev - ing,
This is a day of new be - gin - nings—



lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
as faith and hope are born a - gain.
seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
our God is mak - ing all things new.

Many ways to give! We welcome your offering in the way that works for you: by cash or cheque in the offering plates, through automatic monthly gifts via Pre-Authorized Remittance (contact the office to enrol), by free eTransfer from your bank account (to cloverdalepastoralcharge@gmail.com), or by credit card via CanadaHelps.org (service fees apply). Want to give right now but don't have cash or cheque? Scan the QR Code → to be taken to our CanadaHelps page.



Prayer Requests — As the morning offering is collected:

- in-person worshippers can share prayer petitions (thanksgivings and intercessions, joys and concerns) on the **purple-topped prayer request cards** found in the pew racks and place them the offering plates as they are passed.
- live-via-Zoom online worshippers are welcome to submit prayer petitions (thanksgivings and intercessions, joys and concerns) in the **Zoom “chat”** feature.

OFFERTORY MUSIC — “You Raise Me Up”

Youth Orchestra

The Prayers of the People

FEAST 성찬

God feeds us with the Presence of Jesus Christ

*** Hymn 찬송** — “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

Voices United #382

Invitation to the Feast

The Great Thanksgiving 성찬 감사기도

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: We give you thanks, O God, through your beloved servant, Jesus Christ, whom you have sent in these last times as saviour and redeemer, and messenger of your will. He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you made all things and in whom you take delight.

Celebrate God's Presence, Prayer I

주님께서 성도 여러분과 함께하시기를 기원합니다.

당신과도 함께하시기를 기원합니다.

여러분의 마음을 드리십시오.

주님께 우리의 마음을 드립니다.

주우리 하나님께 감사합니다.

우리가 주님께 감사와 찬양을 드리는 것이 마땅합니다.

오! 하나님, 우리가 하나님의 사랑하는 종, 예수 그리스도를 통하여 주께 감사를 드리오니 그는 이 마지막 때에 구원자와 구속자로, 그리고 하나님의 뜻을 전달하는 자로 보내심을 받았나이다. 그는 하나님의 말씀이시며, 주와 분리될 수 없으시며, 그를 통하여 만물이 지으신 바 되었으며, 주께서는 그 안에서 기쁨을 찾으시나이다.

You sent him from heaven into the Virgin's womb, where he was conceived, and took flesh. Born of the Virgin by the power of the Holy Spirit, he was revealed as your Son. In fulfillment of your will he stretched out his hands in suffering to release from suffering those who place their trust in you, and so won for you a holy people.

He freely accepted the death to which he was handed over, in order to destroy death and to shatter the chains of the evil one; to trample underfoot the powers of hell and to lead the righteous into light; to fix the boundaries of death, and to manifest the resurrection.

And so he took bread, gave thanks to you, and said: "Take, and eat; this is by body, broken for you." In the same way he took the cup, saying: "This is my blood, shed for you. When you do this, do it for the remembrance of me."

Remembering therefore his death and resurrection, we set before you this bread and cup, thankful that you have counted us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you as your priestly people.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon the offering of the holy church. Gather into one all who share these holy mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you glory, through your servant, Jesus Christ.

Through him all glory and honour are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever.

Many: Amen.

주께서는 그를 하늘로부터 동정녀의 몸(womb)으로 보내시고, 거기에서 잉태되어 육체가 되게 하셨나이다. 성령의 능력으로 동정녀에게 나서서 그는 하나님의 아들로 나타나셨나이다. 하나님의 뜻을 성취하심 가운데 그는 자기의 손을 뻗으사 하나님을 믿는 자들을 고난의 사슬에서 해방시키시고, 주의 거룩한 백성을 구원하셨나이다.

그가 죽음을 넘겨지셨지만 기꺼이 죽음을 받아들이신 것은 사망을 멸하시고, 악의 사슬을 끊으시고, 지옥의 권세를 발 밑에 짓밟고, 의로운 자들을 빛으로 인도하시고, 사망의 경계를 정하시고, 그리고 부활을 확실히 증거하시기 위함이었나이다.

그가 떡을 가지시고 사례하시며 가라사대 "받아 먹으라, 이것은 너희를 위하여 찢겨진 내 몸이니라." 하시고, 이와 같이 잔을 가지시고 가라사대 "이것은 너희를 위하여 흘린 나의 피니라. 이것을 행할 때마다 나를 기념하여 행하라." 하셨나이다.

고로므로 그의 죽으심과 부활하심을 기억하면서 주께서 우리를 주의 임재 앞에 설 수 있는 존재로 여겨 주시고, 주의 거룩한 백성으로 주를 섬길 수 있게 하심을 감사하며, 우리가 이 떡과 잔을 주 앞에 드리나이다.

우리가 간구하오니 거룩한 교회의 예물에 하나님의 거룩한 성령을 보내 주소서. 이 거룩한 성례를 나누는 모든 사람들을 하나로 모으시고, 그들을 거룩한 성령으로 채우시고, 진리로 그들의 믿음을 견고케 하셔서 하나님의 총 예수 그리스도를 통하여 우리가 함께 주를 찬양하고 주께 영광을 돌리게 하옵소서.

그리스도를 통하여 전능하신 아버지께 모든 존귀와 영광을 거룩한 교회에서 성령과 함께 지금부터 영원까지 돌리나이다.

아멘.

We receive communion at stations in the front of the church. You will come forward to one of the stations to receive a piece of bread and a cup. Partake of these and return to your seat.

성찬을 위한 분병과 분잔은 본당 앞쪽에서 진행됩니다. 성찬에 참여하는 성도님들은 앞으로 나오셔서 개인별로 빵과 컵을 받고 자리로 돌아가시면 됩니다.

Anyone with mobility concerns may simply signal an usher or communion server to be brought the sacrament at your seat. As is customary at Cloverdale United Church, all cups have **non-alcoholic grape juice**, and **gluten-free bread is available**.

거동이 불편한 분들이 계시다면 안내원이나 봉사자들에게 알려주십시오. 자리로 가져다 드리겠습니다. 모든 성찬 포도주는 클로버데일 교회의 관례대로 무알코올 포도주스, 빵은 전통 빵과 글루텐 프리 빵 중 선택하실 수 있도록 함께 제공됩니다.

An Open Table! When we celebrate Holy Communion we are *all* guests at the table, with Jesus himself as our host. We have not earned a place at the table, rather we are invited because of the amazing grace of God. For that reason, this celebration of the Holy Communion is open to all — including children—who wish to know the presence of Christ and the community of God's people, and not merely members of this congregation or denomination. This is a *joyful* feast for *all* the people of God.

Prayer after Communion 성찬 후의 기도

**Many: God of manna and mustard seeds,
we came to this Table hungry
and we leave feeling full—**

full of hope, full of promise, full of what could be.

**For we not only found glimpses of you at this Table,
but we caught a glimpse of the way things could be:
in a meal where all are welcomed and all are fed.**

Is there anything holier than that?

**So thank you for nourishing our curiosity
alongside our spirit and our conviction.**

**Give us the courage to always seek you the way you seek after us;
with grateful hearts we pray. Amen.**

SENDING 파송

God blesses us and sends us forth in mission for the world

* Hymn 찬송 — “One More Step Along the World I Go”

Voices United #639

* **An Affirmation of Faith** 신앙의 고백

Many: We believe in a God who meets us in the shadows,
who welcomes our questions,
who invites us to begin again.
We believe that Jesus showed us a new way,
a deeper faith,
a more compassionate existence.
We believe that all of our beginnings
should return us to this foundation,
and that no matter how many times we lose our way,
God always welcomes us home. Amen.

* **Charge and Benediction** 파송과 축도

* **Postlude** 후주

Be Our Guest! Come on down to the Lower Hall for coffee or tea or another beverage, a bite to eat, and a chat! Access to the Lower Hall is down the stairs outside the door at the front right of the sanctuary or via the elevator at the front left of the sanctuary. Follow the crowds on down, or ask an usher to guide you... We look forward to seeing you!

Life at Cloverdale United Church

Worship

About today's cover art: "*Renacimiento*," conté crayon, charcoal, acrylic, gold gild on paper, by Carmelle Beaugelin, inspired by John 3:1-17. Artist's statement: I was raised in a Spanish-speaking Pentecostal church in Miami called "Renacimiento." A simple translation of *renacimiento* to English means "rebirth" or "renaissance." For my small Pentecostal church, *renacimiento* meant far more than the symbolism of being "born-again" Christians. It was a perpetual reminder that each time the saints gather to encounter Jesus, the Spirit calls us to continuous transformation, calling dead things into new life and Holy Spirit filled revival.

It is no wonder that Nicodemus seeks Jesus in the cover and darkness of night. It is in the quiet of night that our deepest fears startle us awake, that our anxieties of the day keep us from sound rest, and that the fear of the death of our dreams and bodies looms. As rapper Nas wrote in his debut album, *Illmatic*, "sleep is the cousin of death."

Yet Jesus challenges Nicodemus' seeking in the night with a call to be born again, to *renacimiento*. Not just improvement, but transformation. Not simply resuscitation of what is and was, but a complete resurrection of what could and will be.

In this image, a metaphorically disrobed, aging, and vulnerable Nicodemus,

surrounded by the milky gray swirls of water and spirit, wonders: *How can this be? Haven't I reached past my benchmarks? How is it that you are calling me to begin again?*

We may see ourselves in Nicodemus today, holding the same questions in the sleeplessness of our darkest nights. Yet, what if we chose to hold fast to the faith that responds to our seeking? Jesus promises us that the winds and waters of the Spirit will lead us toward our own new beginning. Each of us will experience *renacimiento* if we dare to seek it.

Many thanks to today's ...

readers: Lily Flather, Eunsuk Kim

ushers/greeters: Carole Teather, Margaret Rose

digital ushers: Byeongho, Dan Ariss

fellowship time hosts: Bruce and Kim Forbes



Recording and streaming in use: Please note that video cameras and microphones are capturing our worship services, and that the resulting content may be transmitted over Zoom, YouTube, or other platforms. Likewise, from time to time still photography of our worship services may be taken and used for church communications, websites, and other uses. By your presence within the sanctuary, you are indicating your consent to the possibility that your likeness may be captured and used in any of these ways. While video capture of congregants in the pews is relatively minimal, if you wish to guarantee you will not ever be depicted on video, the area at the rear centre of the pew seating area is unable to be picked up on camera.

Acknowledgements:

- Cover art – “Renacimiento” by Carmelle Beaugelin, from *Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith*, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org; used by permission.
- Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession (adapt.), and An Affirmation of Faith by Rev. Sarah A. Speed, in “Words for Worship – For Lent-Easter: Year A”, *Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith*, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org; used by permission.
- Prayer for Mercy – Kyrie: Words from traditional Christian liturgical text. Music by J. Christopher Pardini, 2005; ©2011 Birnamwood Publications, a div. of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.; all rights reserved; used under OneLicense.net #A-606025. Reproduced from *Glory to God: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs*, ©2013 Westminster John Knox Press.
- Refrain – “Come to Me, O Weary Traveller”: Words by Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1991; ©1991 GIA Publications Inc. Music by William P. Rowan, 1992; ©1993 Selah Publishing Co., Inc.. all rights reserved; used under OneLicense.net #A-606025. Reproduced from *Glory to God: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs*, ©2013 Westminster John Knox Press.
- Scripture introductions from *Sundays and Seasons*, Year A 2023, ©2022 Augsburg Fortress.
- Hymn – “This Is a Day of New Beginnings”: Text by Brian Wren, 1978; rev. 1983. Music by Carlton R. Young, 1987. ©1987 Hope Publishing Co.; all rights reserved; used under OneLicense.net #A-606025. Reproduced from *The New Century Hymnal*, ©1995 The Pilgrim Press.
- Great Prayer of Thanksgiving from *Prayer of Hippolytus*, ©1983 International Commission on English in The Liturgy (ICEL); reprinted from *Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada*, ©2000 The United Church Publishing House. Korean translation reprinted from Korean Edition of the *Book of Common Worship*, ©1993 Westminster John Knox Press; Korean edition pub. 2001 by Publishing House, The Presbyterian Church of Korea [Tonghap], Seoul, Korea.
- Prayer after Communion by Rev. Sarah A. Speed, in “Seeking Lent: A General Communion Liturgy”, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org; used by permission.

Learn

Devotional Booklets and Daily Devotional Cards for Lent: The Season of Lent began on Wednesday, February 22nd. Bring into your home and your daily rhythm for the whole season the *Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith* journey that we’re taking as a church. **Devotional Booklets** and sets of **Daily Devotional Cards** are available at the church for you to pick up *today*, so you can have them at the ready for the start of the season later this week. (Note that due to print limitations, we had to split the devotional booklets into two parts for the season: the ones available today cover through the first three-and-a-half weeks of the season; the second half of the season will be made available later.)

Serve

Usher-Greeter Orientation: *Sunday, March 19th, around 12:00 Noon in the Sanctuary.* Have you been serving as one of our ushers for Sunday worship, whether frequently or only once-in-a-while? Would you be open to serving in this important yet often under-appreciated ministry? The ministry of hospitality and service that is performed by our usher-greeters is critical to facilitating the atmosphere of worshipfulness and welcome that we strive to embody as a community—and yet it's also a ministry that is simple for people of all ages and skillsets to engage with. If you are currently among those who serve as an usher, or are willing to consider joining the team, please plan to join Rev. Matt and members of the Worship Committee for a quick re-orientation and training session. This approximately 30-minute time together will be an opportunity to make sure all our ushers have the support and knowledge they need in order to feel comfortable and confident in their role. (We will offer this session again later in the year if you're unable to join us on March 19.) *For more information, contact Rev. Matt.*

You Serve with your Stewardship: *I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 121:1-2).* How does one steward the soul? Psalm 121 reminds us where our help comes from—the LORD. Today's story of Abraham teaches us how to respond in faith, and the story of Nicodemus about asking questions and growing in faith.

Cloverdale UCW (United Church Women) News

Monthly evening meetings (Sunshine Group) usually take place on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the CUC Lounge or as announced.

Monthly morning meetings (Friendship and Alpha Groups) will take place on the first Monday of the month at 10 a.m. in the CUC Lounge or as announced.

Mark Your Calendars

- March 1: Sunshine Group gathering.
- March 6: Friendship Group
- March 3: World Day of Prayer

**News about our annual spring plant sale is coming soon!

For further information contact: Kim Forbes, UCW President blueforbes@icloud.com

Friendship Gathering: *Monday, March 6th at 10:00 am in the Upper Hall.* Hamper Fund Fundraiser – Books, Puzzles, and Games Exchange: The CUC Hamper Fund provides support for families and individuals in need throughout the year, not just during the Christmas season. The Friendship Gathering on March 6 will be a fundraiser for this project. Join in the fun and bring the books (a few), puzzles, or games you have finished and enjoyed. Choose new (new to you) ones to take home and make a donation to the Hamper Fund. Also, participate in playing board games and enjoy good food. Food bank donations are appreciated. All are invited.

Other news and notes

Staff Doings: Rev. Matt will be away this coming week—Monday, March 6th, through Monday, March 13th—for his first week of study leave for the year. Rev. Gabrielle Suedfeld will be preaching and leading worship next week, Sunday, March 12th. While Rev. Matt is away, the Rev. Juanita Lowe of nearby Bethany-Newton United Church is on call for pastoral emergencies; she can be reached on her cell phone at 204-898-8281 (yes, the area code is, in fact, 204; she originally got this cell number when she was serving in the Winnipeg area).

Lent 2023 at CUC: “Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith”: The journey through scripture we’ll take across the season of Lent this year offers us many stories of Jesus encountering people who are seeking: Nicodemus comes to Jesus in the veil of night, Jesus approaches a Samaritan woman at a well, Jesus heals a man born without sight. In these stories, each person is seeking a new beginning, a different life, a deeper faith. What unfolds is an exchange filled with questions and exploration. Often, an unveiling occurs—assumptions are disrupted, a new perspective is revealed, mystery grows.

And so, we’ll dig in with some deep questions. Many of our weekly questions feel restorative (“Can these bones live?”). Some feel like a charge or challenge (“Who will you listen to?”). Some questions are hopeful and curious (“How do we begin again?”). Our questions won’t necessarily lead to answers, but they can help us find clarity and a new perspective. Ultimately, we pray they lead to a new beginning, a restoration, a wider grace.

Like the characters in our Lenten scriptures, we are also seeking many things: clarity, connection, wonder, justice, balance. We are seeking our calling, the sacred, and how to live as a disciple. Throughout the turbulence of the past few years, many of us are asking big questions about our lives and our faith. If you are returning to church, you are probably returning with more questions and a critical lens. We hope this series will help us unpack some of those big questions in ways that are honest and faithful. Throughout this season, we hope you will continually ask yourself: what am I seeking? What is God seeking?

Learn more about our worship plans for each week of the season on the CUC website: <http://www.cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca/>

Children's Church: Our weekly "Children's Church" faith formation programming for children and youth, offered during the middle portion of our worship service and led by our Children and Youth Leader, Robyn Garland, will focus on the same stories and themes as the worship services, using creative and exploratory storytelling inspired by Godly Play, along with a variety of interactive activities.

Seasonal Devotionals: A devotional booklet with scripture, commentary, poetry, visual art, hymns, and written reflections that coordinate with each week's



themes and scriptures are available at the church. So are *daily devotional cards*, meant to enable and inspire a daily rhythm of prayer throughout the season. (Sorry, for copyright and licensing reasons, we cannot post these resources on the CUC website; we can, however, direct you privately to digital versions if you contact the church office at office@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca.)

God's Mission, Our Gifts



Empowering Women to Be Agents of Change

Maina Bai's mother died when she was a baby, and Maina never went to school. When she was just 10 years old, her father married her off to an older man. By 16, she had a child. A few years after the birth of her daughter, her husband died. When she returned to her maternal home, Maina was married off—again.

After a few years of marriage, Maina became a widow again. Single, she faced extraordinary stigma. Approximately 2.18 million single women like Maina live in the state of Rajasthan, India. Whether they are widowed, divorced, or have never been married,

these women are deemed “incomplete” and a disgrace to their families. As a result, many live lives marked by stigma, fear, and violence—simply for not being married.

Your gifts support Mission & Service partner Astha Sansthan, “Association of Strong Women Alone” (ASWA). In 20 years, the association grew from 450 single women to over 70,000 members. ASWA's approach is simple: Create a safe space for single women to come together and get the knowledge and skills necessary to improve their lives.

The association has made all the difference for Maina. She can now read and write and is empowering other women to become literate. Because of her leadership, 35 women have enrolled in adult learning. All of them now have grade eight certificates. What's more, the generational cycle of illiteracy has been broken. Maina's daughter can not only read and write but is also teaching others to do the same, opening up opportunities and increasing independence.

Your [Mission & Service](#) gifts empower women like Maina to be agents of change within their communities. Thank you for your generosity.



Lord's Supper
Holy Communion
Eucharist

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is the sign and seal of eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Christ. We remember that during his earthly ministry, Jesus shared meals not just with his followers, but with sinners and the outcast and many whom society deemed unacceptable. Holy Communion points especially to two of the tables at which Jesus sat: the table where on the first Easter day the risen Christ joined two disciples and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread; and the table where in the last meal before his death Jesus shared with his disciples bread and wine and spoke of these elements as his body and blood.

In Holy Communion, we receive the presence of Christ and trust the love of Christ present to us and to the world. We hear, taste, touch, and receive the grace of God revealed through Jesus Christ in a unique way. Communion is:

- ❖ a **joyous act of thanksgiving** for all that God *has* done, *is* doing, and *will* do for the redeeming of creation...
- ❖ an earnest **prayer for the presence of the Holy Spirit to unite all those who share in the feast** with the Risen Christ and with each other...
- ❖ a sacred memorial of the crucified and risen Christ, **a living sign of love and sacrifice in which Christ is truly present** to those who partake...
- ❖ an intimate **experience of fellowship** in which the whole church in every time and place is present and divisions are overcome...
- ❖ a **hopeful sign of the promised Realm of God** marked by justice, love, and peace; a **foretaste of the new creation** in which all things are made new.

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is not just for people from our congregation or "members" of The United Church of Canada. **All** who seek the presence of Christ and the community of God's people are invited. Communion is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a gift given to all—even and especially the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. Even one who doubts, or whose trust is wavering, may receive the bread and cup in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ.

***This is the joyful feast of all the people of God...
Taste and see that the Lord is good!***

We are a welcoming, historic, and progressive Christian community, reaching out from the historic heart of Surrey at Cloverdale since 1875. We seek to thrive in faith through relationship with God, one another, and the community.... to serve others as Jesus would.

CLOVERDALE UNITED CHURCH

17575 58A Ave., Surrey, BC V3S 1N1 | 604.574.5813 | cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca

Ministers All of the Congregation

Lead Minister Rev. Matthew Emery – matt@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca

Children & Youth Leader Robyn Garland – robyn@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca

Director of Music Ministries Dr. Emma Rui-Xuan Shi – emma@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca

Intercultural Ministry Coordinator Chohee Won – chohee@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca

Office Administrator Mope Iruobe – office@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca

Church Council Chair Doug Sowerby – doug@dsowerby.com