

First United Church

March 12, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Third 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

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** My Soul is Thirsting for You (refrain only)

MV 109

Lighting of the Christ Candle and procession of the Word

- **Call to Worship**

One: From the wanderings of our lives, we have come to gather here.

All: We bring life with us, the good and bad and the in between, to this time and place.

One: Come here, offering lives, all that makes them up, before God,

All: And the presence of God will go with us and remain with us in our play and our work, in our resting and our service.

- **Opening Hymn** When Morning Gilds the Skies

VU 339

Prayer of Approach

Listening For God's Word

A Story for the Young at Heart

Readings from Our Tradition

Exodus 17: 1-7

(Reader: John MacPhail)

One: Herein is wisdom.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm 95:

VU 814

John 4: 5-42

One: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Ministry of Music:

A Legend
Gallery choir

P. Tchaikovsky

Sermon: Seen and Heard

• Hymn By the Well, a Thirsty Woman

MV 117

Responding to God's Word

Time of Offering

Offertory

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

Prayer of Dedication:

All: Holy One, when we asked for something to drink you gave us a never-ending stream; a stream of costly love that is offered to all. May these gifts be poured upon a thirsty world bringing comfort and love to all. Amen

Call to Prayer O God, Hear my Prayer VU 948

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

- **Sending Hymn** I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say VU 626

Sending Forth and Benediction

- **Benediction Response** Threefold Amen VU 967

Recession of the Light and Word

Postlude: