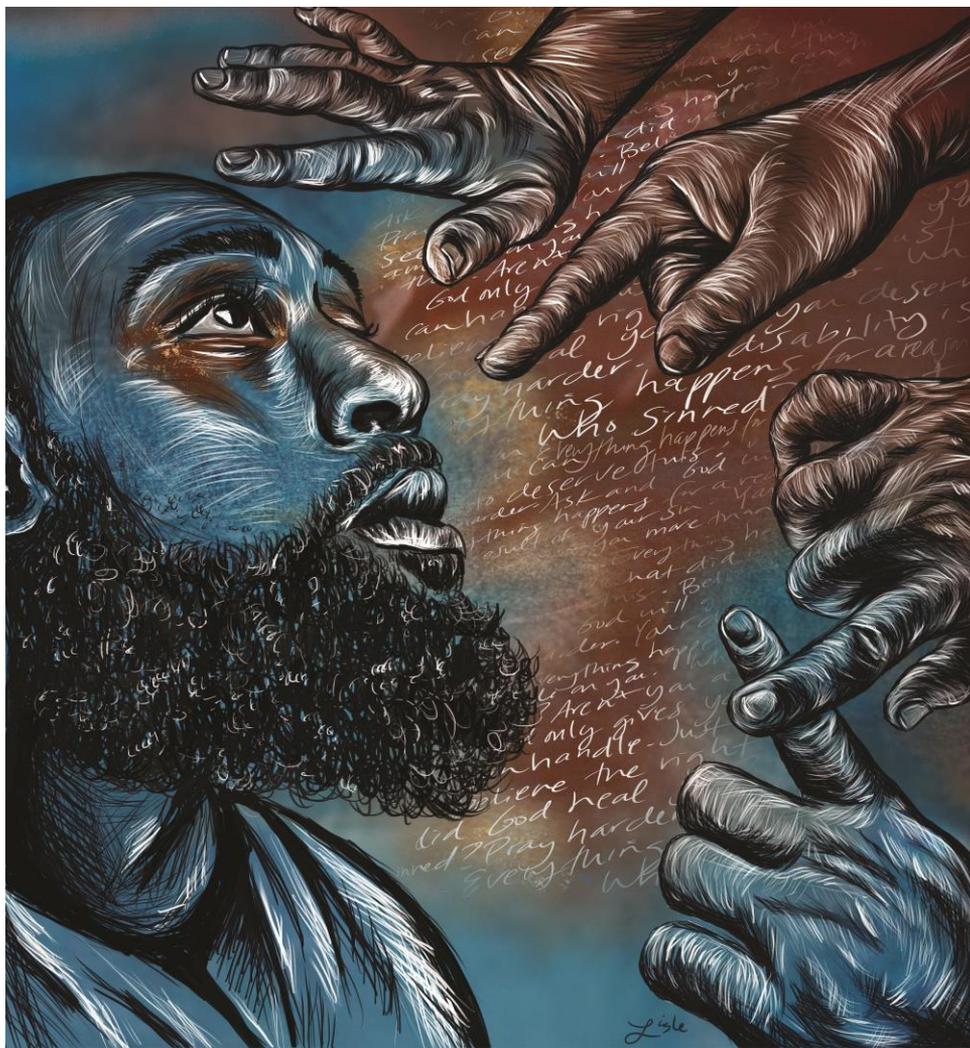




THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

CLOVERDALE
UNITED CHURCH



*"Insight" by Lisle Gwynn Garrity
inspired by John 9:8-41*

The 4th Sunday in Lent
A Service of the Word

19 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 4th Sunday in Lent

"Many of us have made our world so familiar that we do not see it any more. It is an interesting question to ask yourself at night: what did I really see this day? You could be surprised at what you did not see. ... The human eye is always selecting what it wants to see and also evading what it does not want to see. The crucial question then is, what criteria do we use to decide what we like to see and to avoid seeing what we do not want to see? Many limited and negative lives issue directly from this narrowness of vision."

— John O'Donohue, in *Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom*

*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

Dianne Nichols, accompanist

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: Scripture is full of questions...

Many: **Where are you?**

One: Am I my brother's keeper?

Many: **Whom shall I send?**

One: Who do you say that I am?

Many: **Who sinned?**

One: How many times shall I forgive?

Many: **If God is for us, who can be against us?**

One: Scripture is full of questions, so just like those in our scriptures, we bring our full curiosity and wonder into this space.

Many: **Let us ask and seek after our merciful God.**

* **Hymn** 찬송 — "Healer of Our Every Ill"

Voices United #619

Confession and Forgiveness 죄의 고백과 용서

CALL TO CONFESSION 고백으로의 초청

PRAYER OF CONFESSION 죄의 고백

Many: God of compassion and mercy,
we sometimes fail to see what you are doing in the world.
We want you to act in ways we predict,
but we forget:

you do what is good, not what is expected.
Forgive us when we do not recognize your miracles.
Forgive us when we doubt the wisdom of your actions.
Most of all, forgive us
when we do not respond to your call,
ignoring what we need to do
to show the world your love and grace.

Quiet is kept for personal confession and reflection.

PRAYER FOR MERCY: THE KYRIE

KYRIE ELEISON (Pardini)

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

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 — “Come to the Water” by Foley, arr. Schrader

The Choir

O let all who thirst, let them come to the water.

And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord: without money, without price.

Why should you pay the price, except for the Lord, the Lord?

And let all who seek, let them come to the water.

And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord: without money, without strife.

Why should you spend your life, except for the Lord, the Lord?

And let all who toil, let them come to the water.

And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord: all who labour, who labour without rest.
How can your soul find rest, except for the Lord, except for the Lord, the Lord?

And let all the poor, let them come to the water.

Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord: bring the children without might.
Easy the load and light: come to the Lord, the Lord.

Come to the water; come to the Lord.

The Early Word 어린이 설교

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

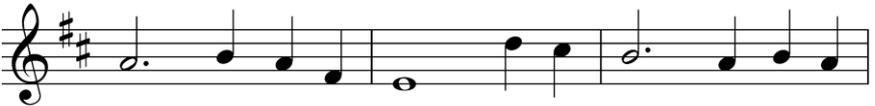
Many: Our Father, who art in Heaven,	하늘에 계신 우리 아버지여,
hallowed be thy name,	이름이 거룩히 여김을
thy kingdom come,	받으시오며, 나라이 임하옵시며,
thy will be done	뜻이 하늘에서 이룬 것같이
on earth as it is in heaven.	땅에서도 이루어지이다. 오늘날
Give us this day our daily bread,	우리에게 일용할 양식을
and forgive us our trespasses	주옵시고, 우리가 우리에게 죄
as we forgive those	지은 자를 사하여 준 것같이 우리
who trespass against us.	죄를 사하여 주옵시고, 우리를
And lead us not into temptation,	시험에 들게 하지 마옵시고,
but deliver us from evil,	다만 악에서 구하옵소서. 대개
for Thine is the Kingdom,	나라와 권세와 영광이 아버지께
the power, and the glory,	영원히 있사옵나이다. 아멘.
for ever and ever. Amen.	

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.”

Scripture Reading 성경봉독 — John 9:1-41

pew bibles NT p. 102

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

after the reading:

One: Word of God, Word of Life.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Due to the length and mode of presentation of today's scripture reading, we will be hearing it in English only rather than in both English and Korean as usual.

Print copies of the reading in Korean are available. 한국어로 된 인쇄본을 사용할 수 있습니다.

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: Who sinned?”

a time of quiet follows the sermon

*** Hymn** 찬송 — “In You There Is a Refuge”

More Voices #84

RESPONSE 응답

We begin our lives of responding to the gospel, in prayer and offering

Responding with our Gifts 봉헌

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](http://CanadaHelps.org) 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

Dianne Nichols

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall
 be; set your seal up-on my heart, and live in me.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION 감사기도

Many: God of glory,
 receive these gifts and the offering of our lives.
 As Jesus was lifted up from earth, draw us to your heart
 in the midst of this world,
 that all creation may be brought
 from bondage to freedom,
 from darkness to light,
 and from death to life,
 through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

SENDING 파송

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

* Hymn 찬송 — “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

Voices United #626

* An Affirmation of Faith 신앙의 고백

One: We believe in a merciful God,

Many: a God who does not keep score,
 a God who wants good for us.

One: We believe in a creative God,

Many: a God who would heal with mud,
 a God capable of seeing what we cannot.

One: We believe in a saving God,

Many: a God who heals,
a God who greets our questions with patience,
a God who sends us out with hope in our step.

One: What wondrous love is this.

* **Charge and Benediction** 파송과 축도

* **Postlude** 후주

Dianne Nichols

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: *"Insight," silk painting with digital drawing and collage, by Lisle Gwynn Garrity, inspired by John 9:8-41. Artist's statement:* In seven verses, the gospel writer tells us that a man born blind is given sight. But after that, the narrator devotes thirty-three verses to the details of disagreement that swell after the healing takes place. I used to find this second part of the story tedious and exhausting. In a world with constant conflict, I'm tired of listening to endless bickering.

However, this second half of the story makes me realize that this encounter is hardly about physical healing or literal blindness. It's about how harmful theology can prevent us from seeing people—truly seeing them. It's about how our narrow imagination can harden into accusation and blame. It's about how we can be threatened by new ideas or shifts in someone's identity. It's about how our doctrine can lead to exile. Ultimately, it's a story about our resistance to change. Can this be a cautionary tale for us?

In this image, hands expressing denial and exclusion press in on the man. In the background, I wrote a barrage of questions I imagine emerging from the crowd: *Why did God heal you? What did you do to cause this? Who sinned?* Alongside those questions, I wove in contemporary statements I've heard spoken in situations when we think a tidy rationale will comfort us: *Everything happens for a reason. God only gives you as much as you can handle. Pray harder.*

I wonder what this story would look like had better questions been asked. What if his neighbors had instead asked the blind man, "How do you feel?" What if the man had asked the crowd, "What are you afraid of?" What if the Pharisees had asked one another, "What if it's time to change?"

Surrounded by remnants of narrow vision, the man has new insight. He looks beyond the words, beyond the crowd, beyond the accusations driving him out of town. Can we seek understanding without denigrating or objectifying humans in the process?

Many thanks to today's ...

readers: Laurel Zulke, Judy Johanson, and Margaret Rose

ushers/greeters: Sue Dearden and Judy Johanson

digital ushers: Terry, Dan Ariss

fellowship time hosts: Lorrie Brown, Muriel Grossman.



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:

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Learn

Mark your Calendars: Inquirers’ Sessions coming up after Easter! *Selected Sundays in Eastertide (April 16 – May 21), following worship, starting around 12:00 Noon.* Are you interested in learning about Cloverdale United Church, about The United Church of Canada more broadly—our particular faith perspective, our history, and more—or about basics of Christian faith in general? Might you consider saying a fuller “Yes!” to God and this particular community by becoming a full member of Cloverdale United Church? If either or both of these are the case, then **Inquirers’ Sessions** are for you! The sessions will meet 4 times on Sundays between Easter and Pentecost (precise dates T.B.D.), starting around 12:00 Noon and lasting 45 minutes to an hour, and will be led by Rev. Matt. For anyone interested in becoming a full member of the congregation, our next New Member Joining will happen during worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 28th. If you are interested in (or even just intrigued by) the Inquirers’ Sessions, or otherwise might be interested in full membership (including membership via transfer from another congregation), please let Rev. Matt know so that he can make sure you’re included in these plans: matt@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca or 604-574-5813.

Usher-Greeter Orientation: *Today, 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.*

Annual spring clean up : As spring is almost on us, it is again time to prepare the property and grounds for the season. On Saturday **March 25 starting around 10 am** we ask everyone for some help with this task. Many hands make light work. As the church has very limited tools we ask you to please bring any lawn tools you may have and of course yourselves. Rakes, shears lawn edgers, hand pruners, gloves and whatever you think may be useful will be welcome. Come out for a great clean up get-together and fellowship to make our church property prepared for the upcoming season. For questions or more information, contact Lewis Corkum, Property & Maintenance Team Leader, lewiscor@shaw.ca

You Serve with your Stewardship: *He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. (John 9:38).* Stewarding your soul may mean responding as the blind man in this week's gospel lesson. Simply open your eyes to the experience of Jesus and his amazing love and mercy.

Cloverdale UCW (United Church Women) News

Spring Update

Spring is just around the corner and with it come numerous opportunities for participation in UCW activities. The UCW (United Church Women) at Cloverdale United Church is an intergenerational and intercultural organization dedicated to fulfilling the mission of our church. All are invited to participate.

The Friendship Gathering on March 6 was a fundraiser for the CUC Hamper Fund which provides support for families and individuals in need. Participants brought books, puzzles, or games they had finished, exchanged them for new ones, and made a donation to the Hamper Fund. \$185 was donated. Thank you to all who participated. *Your donations are appreciated throughout the year. Contact Christine Connel or Bev Siggs.*

**Friendship
Gathering
Monday, April 3
10:00 a.m.
CUC Upper Hall**

Easter Egg Extravaganza
Join us for fun and fellowship as we paint, dye, colour...
eggs and celebrate the good news of Easter.
Come and learn:
Why are coloured eggs an Easter tradition? Where and
when did this practice begin?

**Pacific Mountain
UCW Gathering and
AGM. Friday &
Saturday, April 21 –
22. Squamish, BC**

Be prepared to be inspired. The theme for this event is
“Don't Worry, Be happy” with dynamic guest speaker
Rev. Debra Bowman. Applications and car-pooling
information are available from Lori Brown or Kim
Forbes.

**Annual Mother's
Day Plant Sale
Saturday, May 13**

Beautiful and healthy plants will be available for
purchase to plant in your flower beds, gardens, and
patio pots. Thank you to Jamie Brown and Heather
Becker for volunteering to coordinate this annual
fundraiser. Order forms and further information will
follow.

Can You Help?

Three traditional annual events urgently need a coordinator(s) and a planning committee if they are going ahead in 2023: Mother's Day Tea and Bake Sale, May 13; Thank Offering Service, June; Apple Pie Fundraiser, September and/or October

Mark Your Calendars

- April 3: Friendship Group gathering.
- April 5: Sunshine Group gathering
- April 21/22: Pacific Mountain UCW Gathering and AGM, Squamish
- May 13: Plant Sale

For further information contact: Kim Forbes, UCW President blueforbes@icloud.com or office@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca.

Other news and notes



seeking:
honest questions
for deeper faith

Seasonal Devotionals for the 2nd Half of the Season: 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. The booklets we had available at the beginning of Lent only covered the 1st half of the season... so, ***pick up the new copies available now, for coverage for the rest of the season***, through the week of Easter Sunday! (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.)

Educating the Ministers of Tomorrow:

Jennifer Janzen-Ball's Work. You may think Mission & Service just happens far away from your church. But the effects of Mission & Service may be as close as your local pulpit.

Mission & Service does a surprising amount of development in your local church, recruiting new ministers and funding theological schools. It even shapes the hymn books you sing from every service.

Another important way Mission & Service supports local ministry: by providing academic bursaries for students studying to become ministers and theological leaders.

“The church has a lot to offer in terms of witness to the community and supporting people who are struggling,” explains the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Janzen-Ball, the United Church's Executive Minister for Theological Leadership.

Janzen-Ball knows there's more to a bursary than just the financial gift. “The money is really helpful,” she says, “but the other thing that is so important to students is realizing that people throughout the church cared enough to donate to Mission & Service.”

The Rev. Alexa Gilmour received one of these bursaries when she was still a ministry candidate. “I was a single parent, and I knew I couldn't get through without support,” Gilmour says. “I felt blessed by God through people who donated and who, by giving, encouraged me on my journey.

“I have tremendous gratitude for that important role the church played in my life at that time.”

Janzen-Ball wants you to know that your gifts do matter.

“They matter both tangibly in peoples' lives in a real way but also in intangible ways because they signal the support of the wider community,” she says. “The care of people who are strangers to one another—the importance and impact of that can't be overstated.

“Giving to Mission & Service is an opportunity to support future and current leaders. Those gifts make a significant difference.” (united-church.ca/donate)



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

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Ministers All of the Congregation

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

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

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