

# First United Church

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March 26, 2023

10:30 a.m.

**Fifth 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** 3 Lenten Hymntune Preludes  
St. Peter; St. Cross; Rockingham

Healey Willan

## *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**

#### **Centering**

- **Introit** I have Called You by Your Name verses 1 & 3

MV 161

### **Lighting of the Christ Candle and procession of the Word**

- **Call to Worship**

ONE: We pay attention to what is behind us...

**ALL: and we notice God's presence.**

ONE: We pay attention to what is beside us...

**ALL: and we know that God is here.**

ONE: We notice what is before us...

**ALL: and realize that the path is unclear,  
but we know Christ's promise.**

ONE: No matter who we are,  
no matter where we come from,  
no matter where we are going...

**ALL: the kingdom of God is near!**

**ALL: So we gather to worship,  
taught by Christ,  
moved by the Spirit,  
and loved by God.**

*Richard Bott, Vancouver, B.C.*

• **Opening Hymn**      The Living God Be Praised      VU 255

### **Prayer of Approach**

**Ministry of Music:**      Come Unto Him from *Messiah*      G.F.Handel  
Hannah Haworth, soloist

## *Listening For God's Word*

### **Readings from Our Tradition**

**Ezekiel 37: 1-14**      (Reader: Nancy Lennox)  
One: Herein is wisdom.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Responsive Reading**      Psalm 130, Refrain 2      VU 853

**John 11:1-45**  
One: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.  
**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Ministry of Music:**      Ave Verum Corpus      W. A. Mozart

**Sermon:**      "What's in a name?: Martha, Jesus and true identity"      Sherry Coman

• **Hymn**      Lord if You had only been there      BEACH SPRING By Carolyn Gillette

## *Responding to God's Word*

