



Date: March 26, 2023

Lent 5

Theme: A Spiritual Revival

Worship Leaders: Worship Committee

Musician: Linda Osetsky

Audio/Visual: Amy Kwon

(*: Please, stand if you are able.)

Musical Prelude

Greetings

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

Response: And also with you.

Welcome & Announcements (Care & Concerns)

- **Please pick up printed announcements** for information (dates, times, ticket sales, admission fee etc.) for upcoming events. Not everything is put on slides.
- **Kate** was very pleased to receive all the good wishes!!
- **Lenten Bible Study** ~ Friday's @ 1:00 Stettler United CE Wing ~ Read **Genesis Chapters 27 - 31** for March 24
- **Stettler Easter Choir Practice** ~ At Stettler United Church. Everyone is welcome!!
 - Tuesday **March 28** @5:00 pm
 - Friday **March 31** @ 5:00 pm
- **Good Friday Service** ~ Joint Service hosted by Erskine United. Starts at 10:00 am
- **Easter Sunday Services:** Big Valley 9:00 am ~ Stettler United 11:00 am

Acknowledgement of Territory

ALL: God calls us to live with respect and care for all our relations in creation. For thousands of years, Indigenous peoples of this area have tended the earth, and we give

thanks for such diligence. We covenant to live and work together, sharing this land in peace and respect as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the river flows.

Peter Chynoweth, Cochrane AB

Call to Worship

ALL: We pay attention to what is behind us... and we notice God's presence. We pay attention to what is beside us... and we know that God is here. We notice what is before us... and realize that the path is unclear, but we know Christ's promise. No matter who we are, no matter where we come from, no matter where we are going... the kingdom of God is near! So we gather to worship, taught by Christ, moved by the Spirit, and loved by God.

Richard Bott, Vancouver, B.C. [Prayers for Worship 2023 Year A \(Ash Wednesday to the Last Sunday of Easter\). pdf](#)

Lenten Candle-Lighting Prayer

Today we take one step further on our Lenten journey, travelling in the shadow of our teacher, hoping to follow faithfully in his Way.

We keep our senses attuned, attentive to God's Child, the Beloved. Even when what we experience makes us uncomfortable or afraid, we do not turn away.

Tori Mullin, St. John's U.C., Marathon, Ont. <https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/lenen-candle-lighting-prayer>

***Hymn God, Reveal Your Presence VU#391** Words: Gerhard

Tersteegen, translated by Frederick William Foster and John Miller, William Mercer. Music: Joachim Neander. Public Domain. N/A

Opening Prayer

ALL: Loving God, you've called us and we've come. We know our need to be in this place and we give you thanks that we are here. We want to learn more about your love for us. We want to feel the strength of those who have gone before us and whose presence surrounds us now. We want to find courage for the living of our lives today. We want to notice your presence in the quiet places of our hearts. We want to live with joy and in service to others and to your creation.

We want a lot of things, O God. But, deep down, we know that you know what is best for us.

So, most of all in this time, we want to be with you and to feel your love. Hold us, bless us, touch us, so that, when our worship is over, we may go out to be a blessing to everyone we meet. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Bob Root, Peterborough, Ont. [Prayers for Worship 2023 Year A \(Ash Wednesday to the Last Sunday of Easter\). pdf](#)

Prayers of Confession

O God, be gracious to us. Receive our prayer and forgive the foolishness of our pride. We want to be in control, and it is so much easier to control others than to discipline ourselves. We are like children playing "king of the hill," changing the rules to suit ourselves. Are others solemn and thoughtful at worship, when we feel energized? We call them inattentive and unengaged. Are folks enthusiastic and energetic when we feel quietly reverent? We call them overly emotional.

How do you, Creator of the Universe, want us to worship you? Help us to ask sincerely. Make us willing and able to receive your reply. Forgive our stubbornness, our insensitivity, and our bias for our own comfort. Bolster this community in your law of love. Amen.

Carol E. Bayma, Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church, Norfolk, Virginia. [Prayers for Worship 2023 Year A \(Ash Wednesday to the Last Sunday of Easter\). pdf](#)

***Hymn *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* VU#326**

Words: Charles Wesley. Music: Carl Gotthelf Glaser, adapted and harmonized by Lowell Mason. Public Domain. N/A

Prayer of Illumination

**God of the distant past,
God of the far-reaching future,
God of the here and now:
we receive words from the ancient texts,
we read the sayings of Jesus,
and we listen to today's interpretation.**

We pray that your word will continue to be as meaningful and fresh to us today and in the future as it was to Abraham, our ancestor in faith.

Fern Gibbard, 2019. <https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/god-distant-past-and-far-reaching-future>.

Scripture Readings: Gordon Lane

***Ezekiel 37:1–14:* The valley of dry bones.**

Romans 8:6–11: The Spirit is life, not death.

John 11:25–27: The raising of Lazarus.

Congregational Theme/Story Time

***Hymn *Jesus Loves Me* VU#365 (verse 1) (being seated)**

Words (v 1): Anna Bartlett Warner. Words (v 2 and 3): © Cherie McGuire, 87 Cardinal Cres., Chatham, ON N7L 3V4.
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Message: Worship Committee

***Hymn *As Comes the Breath of Spring* VU#373**

Words: David Lakie Ritchie 1929. Music: Charles J. Dale 1904 Public Domain. N/A

Minute for Mission

***Offering Hymn *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*
VU#541** Words: Thomas Ken ca. 1674. Music: Genevan Psalter 1551. Public Domain. N/A

Offering Prayer

ALL: We know there is much need, O God, and we offer what we can to help. Spread the good we intend where it is needed, we pray, that it may help our neighbours, near and far, through Christ, in love. Amen.

George Allan, Chatham, Ont. [Prayers for Worship 2023 Year A \(Ash Wednesday to the Last Sunday of Easter\). pdf](#)

Prayers of the Gathered Community

The Lord's Prayer

**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.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for
thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever
and ever. Amen.**

Parting Hymn *We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection **VU#586**

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***Commissioning and Benediction**

***Threefold Amen (Unison) VU#967**

Postlude