

Worship Outline  
March 3rd 2024  
The Third Sunday of Lent

**THIS WEEK AT BRECHIN**

**Minister:** Tif Bradford-McNaughton

**Music Director and Choir Leader:** Tim Weger

**Reader:** Judy Wiebe

**Greeters:** Salome Carey

**Power Point:** Matt Haapala

*Italics* – leader; **Bold** - congregation

Welcome and Announcements, Land Acknowledgement

Affirming Statement:

**ALL:** As an Affirming Ministry we boldly declare that we fully welcome and include the full participation of all people in the life and work of Ministry as we journey together, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, marital status, mental or physical ability, beliefs, cultural backgrounds, or economic circumstance. We are dedicated to being good stewards of God's world, working and living towards justice and wholeness for all God's people.

Candle lighting

ONE: *We continue our journey through the season of lent. We journey with Jesus through the wilderness, from town to town to temple, all the way to Jerusalem. Along the way we are invited to let go of what we no longer need, and gather a sense of who we are, and whose we are. As we gather here today, let's draw our attention to our spiritual and social longing. Notice all that inspires you in a day, and how this saturates your being. Recall those you have been connected to already today: Those you've cared for, had conversations with, even those who crossed your path in a fleeting way: Sharing a stop light, or listening to the same program on the radio, anonymously united in thought and feeling. Notice where you are fulfilled and encouraged, and notice where you are overwhelmed and fatigued. In all of this, remember who you are.*

**ALL:** We are blessed, and we are blessing. We are loved, and we are loving. We are called to rest in God's grace, and from here, live in to a world of compassion and peace.

Hymn:

MV 7 "Gather Us In"

*(Words & music: David Hann, 2005; French trans. David Fines, 2006  
Words & music copyright © 2005 David Hann. UBP)*

**Gather us in, ground us in you.  
Gather us in, ground us in you.  
Gather us in, gather us in,  
ground us, ground us in you.**

Gathering Words

ONE: *In scripture we hear that on Mount Sinai, God gave Moses the law: A guide for the Hebrew people and a covenant between them.*

**ALL:** Seeking to be God's people, we too explore the commandments and their echoes in our choices today.

ONE: *Within the ten commandments is God's instruction that after six days of labour, you shall rest—not only you, but those who work for you and those who provide services to you as well.*

**ALL: May this day be a day of sabbath, sacred as part of the flow of creation.**

ONE: *The nature of God is revealed in the commandments, and they help us see how our lives connect with God, our families, and our communities.*

**ALL: May our worship this Sabbath day help us to know God and provide rest to our weary souls.**

### Opening Prayer

*God of the past, present and future, we gather here mindful of your guidance of us: Your commandments echoing through generations, reminding us of the basics of dignity, safety and respect for all. Reminding us of hopes and commitments enfolded by healers, leaders, prophets and teachers; the same hopes and commitments we are invited to hold. As we imagine our next tentative steps, help us to honour your presence, renew our relationship with all your living creatures, and watch hopefully for your guidance and a good way forward. As people of your promise, may Spirit's movements be known among us. Amen.*

Hymn:

MV 28 "God of the Bible"

*(Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1995; Music: Tony E. Alonso, 2001*

*Words © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream IL 60188. ARR. UBP.*

*Music © 2001 by GIA Publications, Inc.*

*ARR. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800-442-1358*

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1. **God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,  
hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,  
you are our centre, daylight or darkness,  
freedom or prison, you are our home.**

**Refrain: Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change. (2X)**

4. **Not by your finger, not by your anger  
will our world order change in a day,  
but by your people, fearless and faithful,  
small paper lanterns, lighting the way. R**
5. **Hope we must carry, shining and certain  
through all our turmoil, terror and loss,  
bonding us gladly one to the other,  
till our world changes facing the Cross. R**

Faith Focus: Social and Spiritual Rest Show and Tell

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17 *The Ten Commandments*  
John 2:13-22 *Jesus clears the temple*

ONE: *These are ancient descriptions of Spirit's movements for the church today*

**ALL: Let us give thanks!**

Reflection: The Messy Process of Embodying Commandments and Convictions

Hymn:

MV 44 “Shadow and Substance”

*(Words & music: Daniel Charles Damon, 1989 Words © 1994 and music © 1993 Hope Publishing Company,  
Carol Stream, IL 60188, ARR. UBP*

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- 1. Shadow and substance,  
wonder and mystery,  
spell-binding spinner of atoms and earth;  
soul of the cosmos,  
person and energy,  
source of our being, we sing of your worth.**
- 2. We are your image,  
formed in community;  
sisters and brothers of Adam and Eve.  
You gave us colour,  
custom and history;  
teach us to honour what others receive.**
- 3. Naming the nameless  
Spirit of unity,  
scanning the heavens for signs of your care;  
God of the ages,  
give us humility;  
guide us to mystical union in prayer.**

Prayers of Acknowledgement and Reconciliation and The Disciple’s Prayer  
*... all this we pray, remembering the prayer which Jesus taught to the disciples,*

**Mother of us all,  
who dwells within and beyond,  
Sacred is your name.  
May your holy vision for collective flourishing  
come to fruition among us.  
May your dreams of justice, love, compassion, and connection be enfleshed on earth.  
Provide us today with what we need to be nourished in body, soul, and heart.  
Forgive us for the harm we cause as we seek to forgive those who have harmed us.  
Lead us away from everything that destroys and liberate us from the hands of evil.  
For you are the ultimate source of hope.  
Your power-with exceeds all power-over.  
Your presence incites eternal wonder.  
All praise to you, our comfort and strength.  
Amen.**

Offering

Hymn:

VU 541 “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

*(Words: Thomas Ken ca 1674  
Music: Genevan Psalter 1551  
Public Domain)*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures high and low;  
give thanks to God in love made known,  
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

Offertory Prayer  
Passing of the Peace

Hymn: VU 468 “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

*(Words: Fred Kaan 1975*

*Music: Jamaican folk song, adapt. Doreen Potter 1975*

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**1 Let us talents and tongues employ,  
reaching out with a shout of joy:  
bread is broken, the wine is poured,  
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

**Refrain: Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**2 Christ is able to make us one,  
at the table he sets the tone,  
teaching people to live to bless,  
love in word and in deed express. R**

**3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out,  
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
gives us love to tell, bread to share:  
God (Immanuel) everywhere! R**

ONE: *In the sacrament of communion, the ordinary things of life —water, bread, wine—point beyond themselves to God and God’s love, teaching us to be alert to the sacred in the midst of life. This is not the table of Brechin, or the United Church of Canada, or the worldwide church. It is Christ’s table, and all are welcome at this table. Welcome, friends and relations.*

ONE: *May God’s presence be known to you.*

**ALL: And also to you.**

ONE: *Lift your hearts*

**ALL: We lift them up to God.**

ONE: *Let us give thanks to the God we love.*

**ALL: We freely give God thanks and praise.**

ONE: *It is well and good, beautiful and holy  
that we should, among joy’s ebbs and flow  
give our thanks and praise to you,  
Holy and merciful God,  
Through Jesus Christ, our teacher.*

*And so, in grateful procession of endless praise  
With the church that is, was and shall be in years to come  
We proclaim glory:*

**ALL: Holy, Holy Holy, loving God almighty.  
Your mercy be known, your kingdom be known!**

*ONE: Holy are you, Eternal One.  
You sit above, through, within the circle of the earth  
Setting light in to being  
Casting the stars in the sky founding the evolving earth and all that dwell within it.  
Limitless is your power, and great is your wisdom.  
You cherish the most neglected creatures  
You accompany the downtrodden  
With grace, and the promise of eternal justice.*

*You sent among us your own child, Jesus  
Who reached in to unexpected places  
Calling your people beyond the limits of their time  
Equipping them for nurturing love and welcoming them into your embrace.*

*And so we recall that on the night of betrayal and desertion,  
Jesus took bread, broke it  
and gave it to the disciples saying:*

*When you eat this bread, remember me.*

*And in like manner, after supper, Jesus took the cup and after giving thanks gave it to them saying,*

*When you drink of this cup, remember me.*

*Life's greatest feast is before us. Beloved community, we remember here today:*

**ALL: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

*ONE: God, you transform. You transform all that is before you with mysterious grace. You illumine all that is before you with mysterious hope. You season all that is before you with mysterious love. These ordinary gifts of bread and juice, cracker and grape bring nourishment beyond understanding. Let us share in our meal.*

**Prayer After Communion**

*God of bread and cup,  
for the renewal we find in this simple meal, we give you thanks. For the love and challenge we find in being drawn together around this and many tables as a community, we give you thanks. For all the elements of Creation that come together to create what sustains us--to create each of us! We give you thanks. Amen.*

**Sending Forth/Benediction**

*As we go, newly encouraged to embody commitment and conviction together, know that you are blessed and blessing in all you give and receive. Amen.*

Hymn:

MV 8 “And on This Path”

*(Words: Lynn Bauman, Music: Linnea Good, 2003, Words © 2000 Lynn Bauman  
from Ancient Songs Sung Anew, the Psalms as Poetry. UBP.*

*Music © 2003 Borealis Music, [www.LinneaGood.com](http://www.LinneaGood.com).*

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- 1. And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide, (3X)  
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!  
The gates are open wide!**
- 2. So enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide, (3X)  
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!  
The gates are open wide!**

*(Gathering Words written by Taylor Croissant, Southminster UC, Lethbridge, AB. Opening Prayer adapted from a prayer  
by Joyce Wagland, Comox UC, Comox BC. Both published in Gathering Lent Easter 2024 year B, used with permission.  
Disciples' prayer interpretation from Enfleshed. Communion liturgy adapted from a Communion Setting by Rev. Kaji  
Dousa, United Church of Christ pastor serving with Park Avenue Christian Church in New York City)*