

Stettler United Church



**BESTOGETHER**

We are United Churches of Big Valley, Erskine and Stettler.

**Date: March 22, 2026**

**Lent 5**

**Theme: The Spirit of God Gives Life**

**Worship Leaders: Worship Committee**

**Musician: Linda Kneeland**

**Audio/Visual: Sue**

**(\*: 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)**

- **40 days of Giving:** Stettler, Big Valley and Erskine United Churches are asking their congregations to make a donation on each day of Lent. The contributions will be presented and blessed on Easter Sunday. The "vessel" can be (sock, glass jar, pretty box) anything you like. The donations will be given to a global crisis (to be determined ~ Eg: Ukraine conflict)
- **Sing Along with** Bless, Break, Share: Recipes for Faithful Living: A Reflection on Food as Spiritual Practice.
- **Friday gathering~** Friday gatherings include sing along and video presentation of The Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath, the Moderator of the United Church of Canada, about food and spiritual life. The sixth gathering will be at Stettler United Church on **March 27 at 1 pm.**
- **Upcoming Worship Information**
  - **Palm Sunday:** March 29 (Joint Worship Service at 10 am at Stettler United Church)
  - **Holy Week:** March 29 ~ April 4
  - **Good Friday Service:** at Erskine United Church on April 3 at 10 am
  - **Easter Sunday Service:** at Big Valley United Church at 9 am and at Stettler United Church at 11 am on April 5

## **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**

Come to the wellspring of our salvation!

**Come to the place where the water of life runs free!**

Come to the well, where you may set your burdens down and draw up refreshment, for mind and for soul.

**Come, people of God, to this place of worship. Come and praise the God who gave us life!**

*Kate Crawford, while at Huron Shores U.C., Grand Bend, Ont. Gathering, Lent Easter 2026, 33. Used with Permission.*

## **Light the Christ Candle**

Lighting the Christ Candle leads us to the holiness and awe of the living God.

**While we see the candle burning and shining brightly, may we be inspired to enjoy God's presence and sing praises together in holiness.**

## **\*Hymn *How Great Thou Art* VU#238**

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## **Opening Prayer**

In our sharing together,

**help us to engage with your word.**

In our singing together,

**help us to experience your song.**

In our working together,

**help us to feel your presence.**

In our loving together,

**help us to know your Spirit.**

In shadow and in bright places,

**help us to share your love.**

In Jesus' loving name, we ask it, O God! Amen.

*Richard Bott, Grace U.C., Burlington, Ont. Gathering, Lent Easter 2026, 30. Used with Permission.*

## **Prayer of Confession**

Part of our Lenten journey is coming to realize that we fall short of God's intention for us. Part of our journey, in the midst of any stress and uncertainty we feel, is realizing that we need to stop and intentionally refocus on what is important and what is not. Let us come before God in confession, seeking to refocus our hearts.

Let us pray.

**God of life, we confess that all too often we spend too much energy on what is of no real importance. We confess the times when we forget what really matters.**

**We confess that too often we ignore the signs of your presence that are all around us, that we fail to celebrate them. Call us once again to trust in you, God of life. Amen.**

*Words of Assurance*

The good news is that the power of death and despair is no match for the life-giving power of God. With God's power, even the driest of bones can spring to life and a desolate wasteland can blossom and flourish. We are a people who believe in life and hope.

**Thanks be to God, for this is indeed good news.**

*Beth W Johnston, while at Bridging Waters P.C., Nipawin, Sask. Gathering, Lent Easter 2026, 32. Used with Permission.*

## **\*Hymn O Jesus, I Have Promised VU#120**

Words: John Ernest Bode ca. 1866, alt. Music: James William Elliott 1874 Public Domain. N/A

## **Prayer of Illumination**

We believe that God's revelation is present in the Word of God.

**May we be inspired to feel God's presence and respond to God's call in reading the scripture. Amen.**

## **Scripture Readings: Linda Kneeland**

***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.***

## ***Tell Me the Stories of Jesus VU#357 (verse 1) (being seated)***

Words: William H. Parker 1885, Music: Fredrick Arthur Challinor 1903 © 1904 National Christian Education Council, 1020 Bristol Rd., Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6LB, England. Reproduced with permission. Words, Music: National Christian Education Council. CCLI.

## **Congregational Theme/Story Time**

## **Message Rev. Dr. OhWang Kwon**

## **\*Hymn *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart* VU#378**

Words: George Croly. Music: Frederick C. Atkinson. Descant: ©1994 C. David Cameron, Chalmers United Church, 212 Barrie St., Kingston, ON K7L 3K3. Words, Music: Public Domain. Descant: C. David Cameron. N/A

## **A Mission and Service Story**

## **Invitation for Offering**

## **\*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**

Jesus, let our offerings flow with gratitude and appreciation!

**Grateful for your Spirit of hope flowing into people's lives, anointing the communities you travel through, let our offerings continue the ministry and work you intend.**

We place on the offering plate our relationships with the people around us, an expression of our valuing of faithful community: lives celebrated, dignity and respect honoured. On the offering plate this morning is your own amazing grace.

**Take and use these offerings, and do all that the Spirit is willing to do, here and across the country and around the world through Mission and Service. Amen.**

*Jeff Werner, Trinity U.C. and Ebenezer U.C., Acton, Ont. Gathering, Lent Easter 2026, 33. Used with Permission.*

## **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.**

### **\*Hymn *My Love Colours Outside the Lines* MV#138**

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### **\*Commissioning and Benediction**

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

### **Postlude**