

St. Andrew's United Church

Being ❖ Becoming ❖ Belonging

The Third Sunday in Lent
March 15th, 2020

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

++ Please rise in body or spirit
MV = More Voices; VU = Voices United

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

God be with you.

And also with you.

RECOGNITION OF THE LAND AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE:

We gather here today on the traditional unceded territory of the
Kilgard, Matsqui, and Kwantlan Nations.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

It is in God that we live, and move, and have our being.

And so, in every moment of every day,

we dance with God, and God dances with all creation.

We don't often notice that we're dancing,

but sometimes, every once in a while,

God's music and movement breaks through,

and we know!

When we gather together, as community of faith,

we gather to help one another become open

to the presence of God;

we gather to help one another be intentional

in that relationship;

we gather to help one another,

and in helping one another,

we worship God.

~2~

OPENING PRAYER:

This is a movement prayer, so I would invite you to repeat my
actions as you
are able.

(Touching head)

Creator, touch our minds—

(Touching head)

that we may worship with understanding.

(Touching eyes or ears)

Christ, touch our senses—

(Touching eyes or ears)

that we may recognise each other.

(Touching lips)

Holy Spirit, touch our voices—

(Touching lips)

that our words would always praise you.

(Touching chest, above heart)

Love Divine, touch our hearts—

(Touching chest, above heart)

that your compassion would overflow.

(Placing one hand on top of the other, palms up)

God of all, touch our hands—

(Placing one hand on top of the other, palms up)

that all we touch would be blessed,

that all we touch would be transformed,

that all we touch would be made new,

by your love.

(Touching head, eyes/ears, lips, heart, and hands)

With all that we are—

(Touching head, eyes/ears, lips, heart, and hands)

we worship you.

Amen.

++HYMN: MV 12, V1 - "Come Touch our Hearts"

WITNESS OF THE STEWARDS:

Last week we were invited to use something we have been blessed with to secretly bless someone else, once a day. I now invite you to share how this practice did or didn't open you up to God.

For the stories we have shared,
for the lives we have lived,
for the love you have given -

Thank you, God!

May the stories of our friends
remind us, all,
that we are on the Way, together!

Thank you, God! Amen!

++**HYMN:** VU 402 - "We Are One"

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE:

Readers –

Psalm 95:1-7 [VU 814 Part 1]

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

++**HYMN:** VU 401 - "Worship the Lord"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE

++**THE PEACE OF CHRIST:**

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

++**PASSING THE PEACE:**

A verbal greeting or gesture is appropriate. We are avoiding physical contact at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

ANTHEM

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:

The Way of Lent is a path that we travel each year,
as a time for us to remember Jesus' journey.

On that journey he met many people.

In that meeting, they were blessed.

When he was with them,

he was careful to listen

to the people and to the Creator.

When he was with them,

he would pray, sometimes with words,
sometimes with tears.

When he was with them,

he would share what he had—

his teachings, his table, his love.

Let us worship God

by listening, by praying, and by sharing!

++**OFFERTORY / DOXOLOGY:** VU 372

"Though I May Speak"

++**DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING:**

The bills and the coins

and the numbers in the bank

**are symbols of the work of our hands,
loving God.**

We offer them to you,

~5~

**that they would be signs and symbols
of our worship as they go out into the world.
May they be used in ways
that bring healing and wholeness
to all creation.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The psalmist said, “O come, let us sing to God,
Let us shout with joy to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come into God’s presence with thanksgiving.
Let us joyously shout to God with songs of praise!”
So, let’s do all those things, as we join together in prayer.

*[Singing] “My Soul Is Thirsting for You”
(MV 109, refrain only):*

**My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, I
thirsting for you, my God.
My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord,
thirsting for you, my God,
thirsting for you, my God.**

Our hearts beat with thanksgiving, God.
They mark every moment that we live in you!
For the earth and all its goodness;
for the seas and the waves so high;
for the air, which surrounds this planet;
and for all the creatures with whom we live—
we say,

Thank you, loving God!
For the relationships we share
with all creation,
with each other;
for the love that brings new life—
Thank you, loving God!

~6~

For your presence in and with all things,
every heartbeat, every day,
for the fact that you are always with us—
Thank you, loving God!

*[Singing] “My Soul Is Thirsting for You”
(MV 109, refrain only)*

Even as we celebrate, in praise and thanksgiving,
we remember that we have also sinned
in our thoughts, our words, and our actions.
There are times we have failed to love you
as completely as we could have;
times we have failed to love our neighbour
as we love ourselves.
Forgive us, God.

**We ask you to forgive us, God.
But, even more than that,
we ask that you help us to
make the choices
and live the decision
to love more completely,
tomorrow and the days to come.**

Hear the prayers of our hearts...
(A time for silent prayer)

*[Singing:] “My Soul Is Thirsting for You”
(MV 109, refrain only)*

As a forgiven and forgiving people,
we remember others who are in need.
For the world and all that lives in it...
For people and places damaged by war and conflict...
For people whose humanity is diminished

by racism, ableism, sexism, classism, heterosexism,
and all the other –isms we live....

For all who are afraid, all who are lonely,
all who are hurting, in body, mind, or spirit...

For our neighbours—
those we know and those we will never meet...

For our families...

For ourselves...

[Singing] “My Soul Is Thirsting for You”
(MV 109, refrain only)

We pray all of these things,
singing the words that Jesus gave to all of his disciples,
including us...

++THE LORD'S PRAYER

WE GO OUT TO SERVE GOD

++HYMN: VU 424 – May the God of Hope Go With Us”

++BENEDICTION AND COMMISSIONING:

This is a movement prayer, so I would invite you to repeat my
actions as you
are able.

(Touching head)

Creator, touch our minds—

(Touching head)

that we may worship with understanding.

(Touching eyes or ears)

Christ, touch our senses—

(Touching eyes or ears)

that we may recognise each other.

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(Touching head, eyes/ears, lips, heart, and hands)

With all that we are—

(Touching head, eyes/ears, lips, heart, and hands)

we worship you.

Amen.

++AMEN: Casa del Sol

POSTLUDE

END OF WORSHIP

BEGINNING OF SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY