



Carlisle/Kilbride United Churches

Sunday Mar 21, 2021

Lent Five

Zoom Coffee 11 am

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**** links for the recorded parts of the Service are embedded in this print version.**

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

(read by Joan Eagle, <https://youtu.be/4v8mTCYzJ6s>)

The light of Christ shines anywhere and everywhere.

(light the candle)

We welcome the light

Acknowledgement of the Land:

As we join together in spirit, we remember with gratitude that we live and worship on territorial lands covered by the Dish with One Spoon Treaty. May our worship honour all who have stewarded this land and may we continue to seek right relations with all.

Lenten Sung Response: MV 90 Don't Be Afraid

This singer and ukulelist might be a bit shy, but their performance uploaded by Westminster United Church (Humboldt, SK) is quite charming!

[MV #90 Don't Be Afraid - YouTube](#)

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear.

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger and I have promised, promised to be always near.

Lenten Litany:

(Rev. Allison,

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1T43b9TKerjdrRcMeqYuFUHcoLmoGzlWG/view?usp=sharing>)

O God, on this fifth Sunday of Lent we reflect on the Covenant of Hope. You, O God, offer us a life of abundant love and grace. There are signs all around us to bring us hope – hope for all, no matter who you are or what your circumstances. One sign of hope is the seed. From the seed, new growth and new opportunity comes. We can find hope in Jesus who told us that even if every voice was stilled, the rocks and stones themselves would shout. Today we place our rock representing your covenant of hope.

(light Lenten candles)

We celebrate your covenants of promise, trust, love, healing and hope as we continue to travel through the season of Lent.

Call to Worship and Opening Prayers: written by Thom Shuman

Call to Worship:

This is the day God has promised: the day of the new covenant.

We are here, because our hearts are filled with love for our God.

No longer carved on cold stone, this covenant is engraved on our hearts.

We open our hearts so God's Word can shape us.

We will reach out to our neighbors, our friends and family, even to strangers.

Our hearts are ready to serve God and all of God's people.

Prayer of the Day

You have forgotten more
than we will ever think of;
you have forgiven more
than we will ever do;
you have shattered
the cold stones encasing our hearts,
so you could write
your name on them.

Redeemer of all,
we praise you.

You plant the seed
of grace and hope
deep within us,
watering them with your love;
you call us to follow,
so we may join you
in serving the broken
of our world.
Jesus of the tears,
we praise you.

You journey with us,
leading us closer to the cross;
you center us
on the One we would follow,
so we can see Jesus clearly;
you point to your watch,
so we know the hour
for faithfulness has come.
Generous Spirit,
we praise you. Amen

Call to Reconciliation

If we would see Jesus, we must open our eyes to the ways we have not followed him as disciples. If we want God to create new hearts within us, we must speak of the old ways in which we continue to live. If we seek God's mercy, we must confess all that keeps us from living as God's children. Join me, as we come to the One who will forgive us.

Unison Prayer of Confession

O Heart which seeks our own: we yearn for your presence in our lives, yet turn away from you time and again. We want to serve others, but become obsessed with our own desires. We need your Word to fill our emptiness, yet let it be silenced by the noise of our world. Our hearts are clogged with the foolishness of our lives, and often struggle to beat in

rhythm with your own.

In this silence, and in the depths of our hidden souls, come to us and make us whole, Steadfast Love. Write *grace* upon our hearts, so we might be more forgiving people; write *mercy* on our hearts, so we might become more welcoming people; write *hospitality* upon our hearts that we might become more like Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who came for all people, even us.

Assurance of Pardon

A new heart, a generous spirit, a fresh start: these are the gifts our God gives to us.

Through Christ, we are cleansed; through Christ, we are healed; through Christ, we become new people. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Opening Hymn: VU 509 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Please sing along with this beautifully constructed lyric video by Centre Place, home of the Toronto Congregation of Community of Christ as well as Beyond the Walls, an inclusive and interfaith online church that welcomes participants and ministers from around the globe. This hymn is performed by the Beyond the Walls Choir.

[I, the Lord of Sea and Sky - CCS 640 - The Beyond the Walls Choir - YouTube](#)

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain,
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send? R

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,

I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? R

Young at Heart:

(Rev. Allison,

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FmMh3RSkzcR5cp_og_dPTWrINQ4qSSDD/view?usp=sharing)

Scripture: Jeremiah 31: 33

³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Story: Mama, Do You Love Me?

Hymn: VU661 Come to My Heart

Texan Joseph Pinson, the composer of this 1979 hymn, is a retired music therapist and university professor who has written a hundred songs and hymns that have been published and recorded. He is also the founding director of the community-based Denton Bell Band for adults with developmental disabilities. This children's recording of "Come to My Heart" is from the 2009 album *Rise Up & Sing...* and I encourage you to do just that!

[Come to My Heart - YouTube](#)

- 1 Come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
 teach me to walk in your way.
 Come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
 come to my heart today.
 Give me the peace and joy
 that only you can bring.
 Come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
 give me a song to sing.
- 2 Fill me with love, Lord Jesus;
 teach me to walk in your way.
 Fill me with love, Lord Jesus;
 fill me with love today.
 Give me the peace and joy
 that only you can bring.
 Fill me with love, Lord Jesus;
 give me a song to sing.

3 Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus;
teach me to walk in your way.
Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus;
Answer my prayer today.
Give me the peace and joy
that only you can bring.
Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus;
give me a song to sing.

Scripture: John 12: 20-26

(read by Drew Mudge, <https://youtu.be/Hw-hWihpOig>)

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

Sermon

(Rev. Allison, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jgeBbJVgcdt1kdek1xjiHwSoQkrYxam4/view?usp=sharing>)

Hymn: VU 373 As Comes the Breath of Spring

I hope you enjoy these images of spring as you sing along with Anna Atkinson. Perhaps the writer of the lyrics was inspired by our Canadian springs: although David Lakie Ritchie was originally ordained as a minister in the Congregational Church in Scotland, by the time he penned this hymn in 1929, he had immigrated to Canada and held the position of principal of the United Theological College in Montreal.

[As Comes the Breath of Spring - YouTube](#)

1 As comes the breath of spring
with light and mirth and song,
so does your Spirit bring
new days brave, free, and strong.
You come with thrill of life
to chase hence winter's breath,
to hush to peace the strife
of sin that ends in death.

2 You come like dawning day
with flaming truth and love,

to chase all glooms away,
to brace our wills to prove
 how wise, how good to choose
 the truth and its brave fight,
 to prize it, win or lose,
 and live on your delight.

3 You come like songs at morn
 that fill the earth with joy,
 till we, in Christ newborn,
 new strength in praise employ.
 You come to rouse the heart
 from drifting to despair,
 through high hopes to impart
 life with an ampler air.

4 You breathe and there is health;
 you move and there is power;
 you whisper, there is wealth
 of love, your richest dower.
 Your presence is to us
 like summer in the soul;
 your joy shines forth and then
 life blossoms to its goal.

Prayers of the People

(read by Muriel Lambert, <https://youtu.be/HzMEkHB4WpA>)

God of Hope, we are a people travelling through life together,
sharing the journey through these weeks of lent
and we seek your presence in our lives.

We give thanks for the new spring, for the return of the robins and crows, the snow
drops and the greening of the willows, for they give us hope.

We give thanks for the many blessings we experience.

We remember, O God, those who have been part of your great covenant in the past:

Noah and the promise of the rainbow;

Abraham and Sarah on their journey to a new land and new beginnings;

Moses and the struggle to find freedom out of slavery.

Now we hear anew the promise of a new covenant

– the promise of new life and wholeness for all.

Loving God, you fill all things with a fullness and hope
that we can never comprehend.

Thank you for leading us into a time
where more of reality is being unveiled for us all to see.
We pray that you will take away our natural temptation
for cynicism, denial, fear and despair.
Help us have the courage to awaken to greater truth, greater humility, and greater care
for one another.
May we place our hope in what matters and what lasts,
trusting in your eternal presence and love.
Listen to our hearts' longings for the healing of our suffering world.
We pray for our frontline workers and our leaders,
For those of us who are in despair and seeking consolation.
Knowing, good God, you are hearing us better than we are speaking,
we offer these prayers in all the holy names of God. Amen.

Hymn: The Lord's Prayer

Here is Albert Hay Malotte's setting of "The Lord's Prayer" sung by the talented Welsh vocalist Charlotte Church. She was about 15 at the time of this performance, which took place in Jerusalem before she made her transition from classical to pop music.

[Charlotte Church - The Lord's Prayer \(Live From Jerusalem 2001\) - YouTube](#)

Blessing Song: MV81 Love Us into Fullness

(created and performed by Heather Olaveson, <https://youtu.be/xa4o8Su8oOo>)

Love us into fullness, touch us with your grace;
Jesus in your mercy, draw us to your face
Love us into fullness, hold us in your care,
cheer us with your presence here and everywhere
Love us into fullness, and we will be strong;
Jesus, walk beside us, fill our hearts with song.