

Jordan Station United Church est. 1859

March 29, 2020 – Fifth Sunday of Lent
Liturgical Colour – Purple



Order of Service – See Below for the Full Service

Gathering for Worship

Prelude Music: God Leads Us Along (P. Drennan)
Love Lifted Me (P. Drennan)

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

Lighting of the Christ Candle

"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship - Being intentional about entering into Worship

Opening Music: Throughout These Lenten Days (Voices United #108)

Children's Time:

Story Time with Rev. Anita: "God Loves Me More Than That"
(by Dandi Daley Mackall, Illustrated by David Hohn)

The Word of God:

Prayer of Illumination

1st Lesson: Romans 8:6-11

Special Music: Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us (SFGP 93)

Gospel: John 11:1-45 The Death & Rising of Lazarus

Sermon: "Lazarus is raised NOT resurrected!"

Sermon Hymn: Teach Me, God, to Wonder (Voices United #299)

Our Response to God's Word:

Announcements

Minute for Mission: "Access to Safe Water"

Offering – Check out our new Website for how you can Donate online
(www.jordanstationunitedchurch.org/donate)

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Closing our Worship & Going Forth in God's Name

Closing Hymn: Wherever You May Go (More Voices #216)

Benediction and Commissioning

Postlude: I Love Thee (P. Drennan)

Jordan Station United Church

Sunday, March 29, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Full Worship Service

Gathering for Worship

Prelude Music: God Leads Us Along (P. Drennan)
Love Lifted Me (P. Drennan)

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

Welcome to Worship my friends. Today as we recognize and honour the lands of our First Nations People, we do so as a continuing act of reconciliation with those who called the land home before we arrived as settlers. We also acknowledge the Indigenous governances that exist today and our need to listen to their concerns and move forward with peaceful acts of reconciliation.

Lighting of the Christ Candle – Join us by lighting your own candle at home

There was once someone who said such amazing things and did such wonderful things that people just had to ask him who he was. One time when they asked him who he was, he said . . . "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Opening Prayer

Let us pray . . . God of love and mystery, we are a worshipping community, marked with the cross. Help us to sing the praises of Jesus Christ. We are a community of friends, marked with the cross. Help us to work together to defeat the forces of injustice. We are a community of faith, marked with the cross. We proclaim the Good News, that nothing can withstand God's never-ending love. Let us worship together in the name of the one who died for us all. Amen

(Inspired by a prayer by David Sparks)

Call to Worship – Being Intentional about entering into Worship

One: We gather as children of God's promise, to keep alive our vision of hope.

All: We gather together in community, that we might be strengthened to live as God's children in the valleys of everyday life.

One: We are on a pilgrimage of love and hope.

All: We follow the footsteps of Jesus Christ, who was faithful because of God's promise.

One: Let us pause on our journeys; let us build a roadside altar, not of stones but of praise and thanksgiving, to the God that guides us. Amen

(Revised with permission by David Sparks)

Opening Music: Throughout These Lenten Days (Voices United #108)

Verse 1

Throughout these Lenten days and nights
we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
we live in hope till Easter Day.

Verse 2

The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God,
who found in weakness greater power,
embraces us, though lost and flawed,
and leads us to his Rising Hour.

Verse 3

We bear the silence, cross and pain
of human burdens, human strife,
while sisters, brothers help sustain
our courage till the Feast of Life.

Verse 4

And though the road is hard and steep,
the Spirit ever calls us on
through Calvary's dying, dark and deep,
until we see the coming Dawn.

Verse 5

So, let us choose the path of One
who wore, for us, the crown of thorn,
and slept in death that we might wake
to life on Resurrection Morn!

Verse 6

Rejoice, O sons and daughters!
Sing and shout hosannas! Raise the strain!
For Christ, whose death Good Friday brings
on Easter Day will rise again!

Children's Time:**Story Time with Rev. Anita: "God Loves Me More Than That"**

(by Dandi Daley Mackall, Illustrated by David Hohn)

The Word of God:**Prayer of Illumination**

*God, help me know this scripture
not as a performance poem,
but really know it.*

*Send me to a map and
let me seek a deep context —
customs of the times,
expectations for faith,
political setting, fears and hopes.*

*Root this scripture in me,
and let that knowledge
fill my voice and my heart,
and lead me not into the temptation.*

*In me and through me,
but with control —
may this text speak a living word.*

(Revised with permission by Maren C. Tirabassi)

1st Lesson: Romans 8:6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason, the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law - indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Special Music: Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us (SFGP 93)

Gospel: John 11:1-45 (The Death & Rising of Lazarus)

A man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. This was the same Mary who massaged the Lord's feet with aromatic oils and then wiped them with her hair. It was her brother Lazarus who was sick. So, the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Master, the one you love so very much is sick." When Jesus got the message, he said, "This sickness is not fatal. It will become an occasion to show God's glory by glorifying God's Son." Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, but oddly, when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed on where he was for two more days. After the two days, he said to his disciples, "Let's go back to Judea." They said, "Rabbi, you can't do that. The Jews are out to kill you, and you're going back?" Jesus replied, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in daylight doesn't stumble because there's plenty of light from the sun. Walking at night, he might very well stumble because he can't see where he's going."

He said these things, and then announced, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep. I'm going to wake him up." The disciples said, "Master, if he's gone to sleep, he'll get a good rest and wake up feeling fine." Jesus was talking about death, while his disciples thought he was talking about taking a nap. Then Jesus became explicit: "Lazarus died. And I am glad for your sakes that I wasn't there. You're about to be given new grounds for believing. Now let's go to him." That's when Thomas, the one called the Twin, said to his companions, "Come along. We might as well die with him."

When Jesus finally got there, he found Lazarus already four days dead. Bethany was near Jerusalem, only a couple of miles away, and many of the Jews were visiting Martha and Mary, sympathizing with them over their brother. Martha heard Jesus was coming and went out to meet him. Mary remained in the house.

Martha said, "Master, if you'd been here, my brother wouldn't have died. Even now, I know that whatever you ask God he will give you." Jesus said, "Your brother will be raised up." Martha replied, "I know that he will be raised up in the resurrection at the end of time."

"You don't have to wait for the End. I am, right now, Resurrection and Life. The one who believes in me, even though he or she dies, will live. And everyone who lives believing in me does not ultimately die at all. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Master. All along I have believed that you are the Messiah, the Son of God who comes into the world."

After saying this, she went to her sister Mary and whispered in her ear, "The Teacher is here and is asking for you." The moment she heard that, she jumped up and ran out to him. Jesus had not yet entered the town but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When her sympathizing Jewish friends saw Mary run off, they followed her, thinking she was on her way to the tomb to weep there. Mary came to where Jesus was waiting and fell at his feet, saying, "Master, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her sobbing and the Jews with her sobbing, a deep anger welled up within him. He said, "Where did you put him?" "Master, come and see," they said. Now Jesus wept. The Jews said, "Look how deeply he loved him." Others among them said, "Well, if he loved him so much, why didn't he do something to keep him from dying? After all, he opened the eyes of a blind man."

Then Jesus, the anger again welling up within him, arrived at the tomb. It was a simple cave in the hillside with a slab of stone laid against it. Jesus said, "Remove the stone."

The sister of the dead man, Martha, said, "Master, by this time there's a stench. He's been dead four days!" Jesus looked her in the eye. "Didn't I tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

Then, to the others, "Go ahead, take away the stone." They removed the stone. Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and prayed, "Father, I'm grateful that you have listened to me. I know you always do listen, but on account of this crowd standing here I've spoken so that they might believe that you sent me." Then he shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" And he came out, a cadaver, wrapped from head to toe, and with a kerchief over his face.

Jesus told them, "Unwrap him and let him loose."

The Man Who Creates God-Signs

That was a turnaround for many of the Jews who were with Mary. They saw what Jesus did, and believed in him. But some went back to the Pharisees and told on Jesus. The high priests and Pharisees called a meeting of the Jewish ruling body. "What do we do now?" they asked. "This man keeps on doing things, creating God-signs. If we let him go on, pretty soon everyone will be believing in him and the Romans will come and remove what little power and privilege we still have."

One: For the word of God in scripture,
For the word of God among us,
For the word of God within us;

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "Lazarus is raised NOT resurrected!"

(Rev. Anita's sermon available online on the Tuesday following the service)

www.jordanstationunitedchurch.org/sermons

Sermon Hymn: Teach Me, God, to Wonder (Voices United #299)

Verse 1

Teach me, God, to wonder,
teach me, God, to see.
Let your world of beauty capture me.

Chorus

Praise to you be given.
Love for you be lived.
Life be celebrated, joy you give!

Verse 2

Let me, God, be open,
let me loving be.
Let your world of people speak to me.

Chorus

Verse 3

Let me, God, be ready,
let me be awake.
In your world of loving, my place take.

Chorus

Verse 4

Teach me, God, to know you,
hear you when you speak,
see you in my neighbor when we meet.

Chorus

Our Response to God's Word:

Life and Work of Jordan Station United Church - Announcements

Friends, although our Church building is closed, our Programming and Worship continues. We are hosting many things on Facebook Live so follow us if you can and help us spread the word so that all can stay connected to our church family.

<https://facebook.com/JordanStationUnitedChurch>

Storytime with Rev. Anita @ 11:00 am daily on Facebook Live

Ukuladies and Guytars Mondays @ 7:00 pm via Zoom & Facebook Live

Creative Spirit with Carolyn Tuesdays @ 10:00 am via Zoom & Facebook Live

Sunday Morning Worship @ 11:00 am via Facebook Live
All videos will be posted and stored so they can be viewed at any time.

We are also offering online materials via email so be sure and check every few days for updates.

Minute for Mission: "Access to Safe Water"

Water is sacred - a gift of the Creator and a source of life. Clean water is a cornerstone of public health and a fundamental human right. In 2015, United Nations member states established 17 goals essential to sustainable development. The sixth goal is the availability of clean water for all.

Access to safe drinking water is one of today's most pressing environmental issues. Large numbers of people have no access to water and lack adequate sanitation to keep water sources clean. According to UN statistics, millions of people die every year from diseases associated with inadequate water supply, sanitation, and hygiene. More than two billion people are currently living with the risk of reduced access to freshwater resources.

The United Church of Canada, as a member of the World Council of Churches, joined with other churches in the Ecumenical Water Network, a Mission & Service partner. The EWN brings churches together in faith-based advocacy for the preservation, responsible management, and the equitable distribution of water for all. Your gifts to Mission & Service help bring the provision of clean water to all people closer to reality.

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith.

Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

Offering Invitation & Prayers

We are grateful for the many gifts of time, talent and treasure that are continually being offered by our Church Members and friends. May they continue to make a difference in the world to those living on the margins. To give online please visit our website:

www.jordanstationunitedchurch.org/donate

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray the words that Jesus taught us. . .
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.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Closing our Worship & Going Forth in God's Name

Closing Hymn: Wherever You May Go (More Voices #216)

Verse 1

Wherever you may go, I will follow,
And your people shall be my people too,
Wherever you may go, I will follow,
For I would be faithful, loyal and true

Verse 2

Say the word and I will stay,
I will never go away,
We will travel side by side,
And God's love will be our guide.

Verse 3

Wherever you may go, I will follow,
And your people shall be my people too,
Wherever you may go, I will follow,
For I would be faithful, loyal and true

Verse 4

From beginning to the end,
I will always be your friend,
When you need me I'll be there,
You can trust my faithful care.

Verse 5

Wherever you may go, I will follow,
And your people shall be my people too,
Wherever you may go, I will follow,
For I would be faithful, loyal and true.

Benediction and Commissioning

Bring us to life, O God;
Free us from all the deadness of the past.
Bring us to life, O God
Free us to break through self-imposed limits.
Bring us to life, O God;
Free us to give with abundant generosity.
Bring us to life, O God;
Free us to follow Jesus faithfully.

(Revised with permission by David Sparks)

Postlude: I Love Thee (P. Drennan)