

Sunset United Church

An Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada

www.sunsetunited.ca

Lent 4 - March 11, 2018

Choir Leader: Nancy Edwards

Pianists: Shirley Hill and Kevin Petrychyn

Worship Hosts: Marilyn Bzdell

Aaron & Lana Orban

Candle-Lighters:

Reader: Aaron Orban

Coffee: Judy Fawell

MINISTERS: ALL OF US!

With Tricia Gerhard and Michelle McConkey

We pray that our worship is both 'child & adult friendly'.

As we worship, we give thanks to the Creator for the Earth, and we honour the Saulteaux, the Cree, and other Aboriginal peoples upon whose traditional land, now defined as Treaty 4, we gather.

WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Gathering Hymn: MV#21 Open Our Hearts **

Lighting of the Peace and Christ Candles

In Jesus we find the light of the world, but sometimes we prefer to live in the shadows. Sometimes, we prefer not to see what happens in our own emotional and spiritual life.

Sometimes, we prefer not to know what happens in the world

around us. And in the shadows, we stumble on the rocks.
When we choose not to see or know, we choose to turn away
from God.

The fourth rock is placed

The rock that causes us to stumble.

May God's Spirit walk with us.

Response: MV#90 Don't be Afraid (two times) ***

Call to Worship*:

We are given life -

By love

We are called -

By love

We are gathered together -

By love

By God's love for us...

And our love for God.

So, this day and all days...

We abide in the love of God,

Living God's will,

Loving God's way.

Come, people of God's covenant love,

Let us worship God.

Let us pray:

You, Holy One, are our all in all,

The ground of our being,

The rock of our faith,

The place of shelter,

In the never-ending dance of our lives.

For those moments in which we need calm,

Give us peace.

For those moments in which we need to GO,

Give us energy.

For those moments in which we simply need to be,

Give us love.

And help us to be your conduits

Of love, energy, and peace

That flow into the world.

(silent prayer)

In Christ's name, we ask it.

Amen.

Opening Hymn: MV#1 Let Us Build a House (v.1,2,4,5) ****

Prayer for Wholeness

Covenant-making God,

You shown us what it means to be your people,

though sometimes we would prefer to be our own people.

We have made idols – of busyness, of possessions, of jobs, of celebrities and politicians, of media, of our own desires.

We speak the words of your commandments, while ignoring their spirit. We have forgotten that you loved us first long before commanding us to live your way. Forgive us...

(Silent prayers of the heart....)Amen.

Assurance of God's Blessing

Our Sung Response: VU#95 How Deep the Peace *<*

Passing of the Peace of Christ

WE LISTEN

Choir Anthem: Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley

Conversation time

Hymn: VU#352 I Danced in the Morning (v 1-5) <>

Scripture: Numbers 21: 4-9
John 3: 14-21

Reflection

WE RESPOND

Hymn: VU#282 Long Before the Night **<

Our Offerings are Received

Doxology: O God, you are both light and love,
You dwell within, below, above,
We thank you for our lives and pray
Your blessings on these gifts today.

Words written by Rev. Lori Erhardt
Tune: Old 100

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer (spoken)

Hymn: VU#575 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me >>*

Commissioning & Blessing

Sung Response: *Amen, Amen, Amen!*

Postlude



- *prayer written by Richard Bott, found in Gathering, L/E 2018 (year B), page 30.
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