

Sunset United Church

An Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada

www.sunsetunited.ca

Lent 5 - March 18, 2018

Choir Leader: Nancy Edwards

Pianists: Shirley Hill and Kevin Petrychyn

Worship Hosts: Carol Spencer,
June Horsman, Kim Dedman

Reader: Marilyn Bzdell

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

Following Jesus requires strength for the journey. If we follow faithfully, we find ourselves taken into unknown places. It is easy to falter. Afraid of it all, we want to return home. Will you have the courage to step forward?

The fifth rock is placed

The rock of uncertainty.

May God's Spirit walk with us.

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

Call to Worship*:

And it begins.

Life is a cycle -

Every moment a beginning,

Every moment an ending.

Life is a cycle -

Ever changing, never static.

Life is a cycle -

“Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth

And dies, it remains just a single grain.”

Life is a cycle -

But in all the change,

From birth to death and beyond,

The one constant is this:

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God!

Let us pray:

Write your love on our hearts, God of all.

**Place your call into the deepest depths
of our souls,**

because we are your people, always,

because you are our God, always.

Let your Spirit move us,

Change us, drop us into the earth,

**And then make us grow –
In Jesus name! Amen.**

Opening Hymn: VU#109 Now Quit Your Care ****

Prayer for Wholeness

At times our hearts are empty.
We expend all of our attention
At work, at school, at church, in community
Until we have nothing left to give
And our inner beings feel like vacant shells.
Hear us as we pray:

Create a new heart in me, O God.

At times our hearts burn with resentment.
Life has been unfair
And we rehearse the dealings of our past
Until forgiveness of ourselves and others is nearly impossible.
Hear us as we pray:

Create a new heart in me, O God.

At times our hearts are paralyzed with fear.
We wonder: Where is the safe and familiar?
How will we move forward?
What are we to do?
Hear us as we pray:

Create a new heart in me, O God.

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

Assurance of God's Blessing

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

Passing of the Peace of Christ

WE LISTEN

Choir Anthem: *Draw Me Nearer*

Conversation time

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

Scripture: Jeremiah 31: 31-34
John 12: 20-33

Reflection

WE RESPOND

Hymn: VU#186 Now The Green Blade Rises (vs. 1, 2, 4) **>

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#581 When We Are Living >>*

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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