



Sunday, February 21, 2021
~ First Sunday of Lent ~
Virtual Service

Worship Team: Rev. Pirie Mitchell,
Dan Leaver,
Brian & Emma Ratcliffe & Karen Pincombe

Music Team: Karen Schuessler,
Shawn Spicer,
Amanda Lynn Stublely & Martin Horak,
Hymn Leaders
(all previously recorded videos)

VU = red hymnal Voices United
Please sing along at home; we have provided the lyrics!

<i>Prelude:</i> Communion (Gigout)	Shawn Spicer and Karen Schuessler (previously recorded on June 21, 2020)
<i>Welcome and Life and Work of the Church</i>	Rev. Pirie Mitchell
<i>Lighting of the Christ Candle</i>	Dan Leaver
<i>Indigenous Land Acknowledgement</i>	Rev. Pirie Mitchell
<i>Call to Worship</i> (in unison)	Dan Leaver

Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday have passed. They passed without the usual celebration of pancakes and ash smudge on foreheads. But more importantly these two days signal the arrival of Lent where we remember the majesty of Jesus' sacrifice for us 1991 years ago. Today we are called amidst the beginning of Lent to remember the lives sacrificed in the evil tradition of slavery throughout the world. Come let's worship as free people in Christ Jesus.

Oh God, we begin the Lenten season of Easter this day. Help us remember that Easter is not about chocolate bunnies and calorie filled Easter eggs. Easter is a time for us to remember that Jesus was hung on a cross as a criminal and endured the pain and embarrassment of an innocent dying man of the people. He was one of us. We need to remember that we are a part of his family and we, in our mission, need to face down the bigotry and insults of racism all around us. Be with us we pray. Amen.

Hymn: Psalm 100 (All People That on Earth Do Dwell)

VU 822 verses 1, 2, 4

(previously recorded by Jen Paterson on Aug 9, 2020)

1. All people that on earth do dwell,
sing out your faith with cheerful voice;
delight in God whose praise you tell,
whose presence calls you to rejoice.
2. Know that there is one God, indeed,
who fashions us without our aid,
who claims us, gives us all we need,
whose tender care will never fade.
4. Proclaim again that God is good,
whose mercy is forever sure,
whose truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

Learning with Children

Dan Leaver

Lord's Prayer (in unison) (VU page 921)

Brian & Emma Ratcliffe & Karen Pincombe

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by 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.**

Scripture: Slavery in the Roman Empire (Wikipedia)

Dan Leaver

Special Music: Anchored in Love

Amanda Lynn Stublely & Martin Horak
(previously recorded April 26, 2021)

Message: Let My People Go (Part Three)

Rev. Pirie Mitchell

Hymn: I Heard the Voice of Jesus

VU 626 all verses

(previously recorded by Christian Haworth on May 24, 2020)

1. I heard the vice of Jesus say,
“Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.
2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down, and drink, and live.”
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.
3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“I am this dark world’s light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I’ll walk
till travelling days are done.

Offertory Prayer

Rev. Pirie Mitchell

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Lord we come to you as a part of the Lenten Easter we acknowledge to the world. There is so much to remember and learn about your son’s mission. We are called to take his message out into the world armed with the values he taught. As well, we are called to support his never-ending ministry which we do today. Accept our gifts we pray. Amen

Prayers of the People

Rev. Pirie Mitchell

O God, we are the Easter people. We are good at celebrating with gusto the various days in the year which have special celebrations: Christmas, New Years, birthdays, Shrove Tuesday, Mardi Gras, Ash Wednesday, Easter, Good Friday, Maundy Thursday, and the list goes on. However, we need to stop and remember that each of these days is a celebration where we need to remember the meaning. Help us to focus on the meaning before the celebration.

This month we celebrate Black History Month. It is a time to reflect the history of African Canadians and their history in our country. For many it was appalling. Slavery is never a preferred way to live where freedom to choose is taken away from you. History of indigenous slavery, African slavery, and indentured servitude in our country is a shameful part of our history. Help us own up to the injustices and walk forward knowing that our history is NOT unblemished.

We pray at this time of year, during the Lenten season, that we may see Jesus' message more clearly. It is never enough to just get by by doing the minimal amount. Jesus' mission calls for commitment in an age where his message must be translated into action, where it serves the greatest good. Be with us in the season of Lent as we move toward a newer and better world. Amen.

Hymn: Go Forth for God

VU 418 verses 1 & 2

(previously recorded by Marilynne McNeil on September 27, 2020)

1. Go forth for God, go to the world in peace;
be of good courage, armed with heavenly grace,
in God's good Spirit daily to increase,
till in the kingdom we see face to face.
Go forth for God, go to the world in peace.
2. Go forth for God, go to the world in love;
strengthen the faint, give courage to the weak;
help the afflicted; richly from above
God's love supplies the grace and power we seek.
Go forth for God, go to the world in love.

Commissioning & Benediction

Rev. Pirie Mitchell

At this time of Lent let us go forward to a new and better world reflecting the mission of our friend Jesus of Nazareth.

Go now in peace knowing you are on the same road as the saints.

Being armed with the understanding that kindness and understanding Jesus' Kingdom we can change to a neighbour rather than a person of disinterest. Amen.

Congregational Response (in unison)

VU 298

(previously recorded by Jen Paterson on August 9, 2020)

**When you walk from here, when you walk from here,
walk with justice, walk with mercy, and with God's humble care.**

Postlude: Trumpet Tune (Maurice Greene)

Shawn Spicer and Karen Schuessler

(previously recorded on June 21, 2020)

WK Coffee Time

Stay tuned to see who Glen or Jane speaks with this week!