



Sunday, February 28, 2021
~ Second Sunday of Lent ~
Virtual Service

Worship Team: Rev. Pirie Mitchell, Dan Leaver, Abuk Roy

Music Team: Karen Schuessler, Senior Choir YouTube video (Sheila LeClair, soloist), Hymn Leaders
(all previously recorded videos)

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

Prelude: Joy (Franck)

Karen Schuessler
(previously recorded on May 24, 2020)

Welcome and Life and Work of the Church

Rev. Pirie Mitchell

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Dan Leaver

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

Rev. Pirie Mitchell

Call to Worship (in unison)

Dan Leaver

We are called to worship today following the lessons and inspiration of Jesus, a man from Nazareth. On the surface there was nothing unusual about this man. He came from the working class. He had no university education. He was a man of his people. He had an attachment to the God of the Universe upon whom he was on intimate terms. He angered the mighty and befriended the lowly. He saw the human beings of this world as equals. Rich or poor, black or white, Jew or pagan, he loved us all. As a result, it so angered those in power, they killed him.

Today, we are called to remember his equality lessons, and to live as equals in this racist and discordant world. Come let us worship together as equals, where the differences we see in each other blend into the unity we have with each other. We are one!

Oh God, it's hard for us to see ourselves as equal to the homeless woman on the street, the man or woman of colour who we don't have to befriend. This Sunday it is time for us, who are of the convenient colour, the convenient class, the normal person in life, the majority, to come to grips with our artificial superiority and our deep-seated racism. Help us O Lord to come to grips with ourselves. Many of us say we are colour blind until we are forced to confront our own prejudice and our own ethnocentrism. Today, as we celebrate the last of our series of sermons commemorating Black History Month, help us become more aware of the raciest ideas we carry within us. Give us the courage to face ourselves with the goal of change, to reflect what Jesus taught, with his words and his example. Amen.

Hymn: God is Here

VU 389 verses 1 & 4

(previously recorded by Margaret Ryan on July 19, 2020)

1. God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in full measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

4. God of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out,
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!

Learning with Children

Dan Leaver

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

Abuk Roy

**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.**

Special Music: Ride the Chariot (arr. W. E. Smith)

Senior Choir YouTube video (Sheila LeClair, soloist)

(previously recorded July 19, 2020)

Message: Let My People Go (Part Four)

Rev. Pirie Mitchell

Hymn: The Lord's My Shepherd

VU 747 all verses
(previously recorded by Hannah Haworth on May 3, 2020)

1. The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
he makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me,
the quiet waters by.
2. My soul he doth restore again;
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
even for his own name's sake.
3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill;
for thou art with me; and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.
4. My table thou has furnished
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.
5. Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me,
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling-place shall be.

Offertory Prayer

Rev. Pirie Mitchell

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Lord we offer our gifts to your mission. Accept them as the easy part of our offering. As well, we offer ourselves as changed people of Jesus' mission. This is a difficult offering to make. We are imperfect but we move toward change where all people are equal to us and we to them. Help us with this offering. Help us in our change. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Prayers of the People

Rev. Pirie Mitchell

O God, we are on a path in life which has many flat-line portions. Much of the time we are content with our status quo. Why change we ask ourselves? We often answer we are too old to change. Why bother? What does it matter if we are just a little bit racist? We don't show it. Who does it bother? And when it does come up, we can just quietly skirt the issue and walk away from it. We know that many of us come by our racist attitudes honestly from our family and community. And in life it hasn't hurt us.

Help us see that we are at the top end of the rich man's banquet table when we look down on those who are racially different from us. Jesus called us to see all as deserving of a place at the feast and those do include people who are different from us in any way. Help us change O Lord. Help us move away for the position of superiority to become one of the many. Help us become the people of the Heavenly banquet where all are accepted as equals in a world of differences.

We pray at this time for our church congregation and our future. Last year has been a difficult one for us. We have been stuck in a Covid time warp where we cannot

meet together as a church family. We have lost some of our church family where we cannot send them off with the usual love and longing as we are used to. And we have challenges. Many of us look forward to resuming the usual church activities as if there has never been a Covid year. Most of us may be disappointed. Our future will be consumed with finding a new minister, with how to fill all the committees with working people, what shall we do with all the empty space in the building along with our ongoing mission of change, both personal and congregationally. Be with us we pray as we move into tomorrow. Amen.

Hymn: I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

VU 575 all verses
(previously recorded by Kevin Wardle on Aug 16, 2020)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! | 3. I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! |
| 2. I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! | 4. I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! |

Commissioning & Benediction

Rev. Pirie Mitchell

Let us leave this place as changed people going out into the world accepting all within the family of Jesus and inviting all to the Banquet of Equality table. Let us be blessed with the equality of Jesus the Christ in all we do. Amen.

Congregational Response (in unison)

VU 298
(previously recorded by Kevin Wardle on August 16, 2020)

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

Postlude: Holiday for the Pedals (Young)

Karen Schuessler
(previously recorded on September 27, 2020)

WK Coffee Time

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