



Sunday, March 21, 2021

~ Fifth Sunday of Lent ~

Virtual Service ~ The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Worship Team: Rev. Pirie Mitchell, Richard Yake & EJ Small, the Olson family,
Mike and Margaret Ryan

Music Team: Karen Schuessler, Craig Read (Hymn Leader)
Jr. Choir (previously recorded virtual video)

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

Prelude: Gymnopédie, No. 1 (Satie) Karen Schuessler

Welcome and Life & Work of the Church Rev. Pirie Mitchell

Call to Worship (in unison) Rev. Pirie Mitchell

Being a committed Christian, in a world of choices, we are often confronted with tough decisions. This morning we are called to review the great and humanly impossible decision which confronted Jesus when he faced Jerusalem. How does he face the cross? Or can he avoid his fate at Golgotha? Or does he ally himself with the Roman-Sanhedrin conspiracy and sell us out? His response will affect millions over the next two millennia.

Opening Prayer (in unison) Rev Pirie Mitchell

O God, as we continue our earthly journey toward Easter Sunday, we are reminded that in life we are called on to make important decisions. Each of our decisions is often a tug of war between what is good for people and what benefits us few only. There are shining examples in life which reflect the goodness of men and women who follow Jesus' ministry. There are also plenty of folk in Christian history who have sold out Jesus' mission for their 30 pieces of silver. We pray to you today to help guide us when we are

compelled to make those important decisions. Help us follow Christ's teachings. Amen.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rev. Pirie Mitchell

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

Rev. Pirie Mitchell

Hymn: Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights

VU 108 verses 1, 4, 5

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.
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.
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!

Learning with Children

Richard Yake & EJ Small

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

the Olson family

**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.**

Communion

Rev. Pirie Mitchell

Readings

Mike & Margaret Ryan

- Scripture reading: Hebrews 5: 5-10
Secular reading: An overview of John's gospel
Scripture reading: John 12: 20-33

Special Music: Dear Heavenly Father (Lloyd Larson)
(2015 YouTube video) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1ArQRlelOU>

Junior Choir

Message: Decisions! Decisions! Decisions!

Re. Pirie Mitchell

Hymn: One Bread, One Body

VU 467 verses 1 & 2

*Refrain: One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
One cup of blessing which we bless;
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
We are one body in this one Lord.*

1. Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
Woman or man, no more. *Refrain*

2. Many the gifts, many the works,
One in the Lord of all. *Refrain*

Offertory Prayer

Rev. Pirie Mitchell

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Lord, our commitment to you seems so small when compared to the offering Jesus made that first Good Friday. Accept these our gifts in recognition to His love of humankind. Help us move toward His Kingdom of Heaven by our efforts here at Wesley Knox. Amen

Prayers of the People

Rev. Pirie Mitchell

O God, as we move toward the Good Friday experience, be with us in our journey. We know that Jesus was faced with the most brutal decision anyone could face. It makes our life's decisions pale in comparison. And yet Jesus faced the cross with courage knowing he was standing up for us and a new way of living where all were included. On our Lenten journey prepare us for the important decisions we need to make especially in our mission as disciples of Jesus.

Lord this morning we celebrated the communion Jesus celebrated with you on that first Maundy Thursday. Help us to see that the communion service is about communion with you and communion with our neighbours. The first communion is easy to see. Jesus taught us well. He celebrated the eating of the unleavened bread and drinking of the wine as our engagement with you. The second communion is more difficult to understand. It's easy to be in communion with our church neighbour. After all we work toward the same end and believe generally in the same religious rituals. It's being in communion with those folks who do not reflect our appearance and values. We are called by Jesus to be in communion with those who are of a different skin colour, a different religion or no religion and those who are different in life's orientation. Help us to overcome the second communion hurdle and become brother and sisters of the different.

And finally, we pray for ourselves in this Lenten season. Help us to prepare for the Easter Sunday morning, not with chocolate chicks or painted chicken eggs, but by becoming more sensitive to our human condition and able to correct those tempers within us to be in step with you and your son Jesus. We are part of the human condition and are prone to not always doing things as we should. Help us to change to reflect more of what Jesus taught us to be rather than a ship's captain without a rudder. Amen.

Hymn: Sent Forth by God's Blessing

VU 481 all verses

1. Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, God's love shall unite us
to work for the kingdom and answer it's call.
2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.
With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honour to Christ and the name that we bear.

Commissioning & Benediction

Rev. Pirie Mitchell

We are now equipped with the tools of life Jesus gave us. Let us go out from here ready to build a new society. Go in peace!

Response (in unison)

VU 298

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

Postlude: The Wind (Gian-Carlo Menotti)

Karen Schuessler

*The wind is an ancient symbol for the Holy Spirit,
the breath of God, who blows wherever it wills.*

WK Coffee Time: Stay tuned to find out who Glen or Jane speaks with this week!