



Pittman, Lauren Wright. A Choice, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57082> [retrieved February 23, 2023]. Original source: Lauren Wright Pittman, <http://www.lewpstudio.com/>.

February 26, 2023

Melville United Church

300 St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON N1M 1N9

Mailing address: PO Box 41, Fergus, ON N1M 2W7

519-843-1781

Team Ministry

Minister of Worship, Pastoral Care & Outreach	Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint
Youth Faith Formation	Naomi Flint
Ministry of Music Team	Suzanne Flewelling, Colleen Weber
Office Administrator	Lynda Rivet
Custodian	Robert Mitchell, Suzanne Flewelling
Chair of Church Council	Allan Hons
Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain	Alison Rainford, Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint
Office hours	9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. T., Th. & F.
E-Mail	secretary@melvilleunited.com
Web Site	www.melvilleunited.com
Pastoral Care Numbers	709-682-8756, 519-843-3841

Melville United Church

February 26, 2023

First Sunday of Lent

Presiding today - Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

Welcome

I greet you in the name of the one who faced temptation out of love, Jesus the Christ.

We gather in community today – February 26, 2023 virtually and in person. We will continue to offer both in-person and on-line services with printed copies being distributed to those without internet access who are unable to attend in person. We encourage people to come out to worship in the sanctuary. There is ample room to socially distance, and you are welcome to wear masks or not as is comfortable for you.

For those who are joining us online or by reading, we invite you to light a candle or tea light. You are also invited to have some form of bread, cracker, roll, and juice, water or liquid of your choice as we celebrate communion in this service.

We gather on this first Sunday of Lent, a name which comes through the Middle English *lente* and Old English *lencten* or *lengten*, referring to the season of spring and the lengthening of days. It is also related to the French word *lente*, which means “to move slowly.”

Announcements

- On Monday, February 6, a series of **powerful earthquakes struck southern Türkiye (Turkey) near the border with Syria**. The quakes caused extensive damage and loss of lives. At time of writing, the death toll has surpassed 20,000 people, and thousands more are missing. The winter weather makes the situation even more dire for people who are without shelter, warm clothes, blankets, water, and food. Some of the people affected by the earthquake were already displaced by conflict. Today, people need emergency shelter, blankets, mattresses, clean water, food, and hygiene items. We join Mission & Service partners the Middle East Council of Churches, ACT Alliance, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and the Humanitarian Coalition to show tangible support for the people of Türkiye and Syria. You can be a part of these efforts by donating now at <https://united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/earthquake-turkiye>. Thank you for your generosity.
- **You are invited to a Lenten film study—The Gospel of John** hosted by Hope Springs United Church, Elora. You can join one of two ways: **Online on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30** starting February 28th or **In-Person on Thursday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:00** starting March 2. For more information and to sign up contact Greg Smith-Young at 519-846-0122 or minister@hopespringsunited.ca
- **“MID-DAY MUSIC AT MELVILLE” presented and performed by pianist BRAD HALLS**
“Mid-Day Music at Melville” returns on Wednesday, March 1 from 12 noon to about 1:00 p.m. at Melville United Church in Fergus, when pianist Brad Halls will present songs written by the great songwriting team of composer Frederick Loewe and his lyricist partner Alan Jay Lerner. Together “Lerner and Loewe” created the classic Broadway shows and movie scores for *“Brigadoon”*, *“Paint Your Wagon”*, *“My Fair Lady”*, *“Gigi”* and *“Camelot”*. There is absolutely no admission fee for the performance, but a voluntary contribution to Melville to keep the heat and lights on and the piano tuned is always welcome.

- The **World Day of Prayer Service** focusing on the people of Taiwan with the theme “I Have Heard About Your Faith” will be held **Friday, March 3rd at 2pm at St. John’s Anglican Church in Elora**. All are welcome.
- **VON invites you to join SMART (Seniors Maintaining Active Roles Together) Gentle Exercise Program Classes** at Melville **Tuesday and Thursday at 9:30 am** as there are available spots. The 10:30 class is fully booked. Call Danielle to register 519-803-0144.
- **Friday or Sunday Coffee Time** – We encourage people to sign up to host either a Friday or a Sunday Coffee Time. It is not difficult! We’d be pleased to show you how. Sign-up sheets are at the Parlour Door. Please speak to Lorna Bevcar or Marg Frayne.
- **Donations to Garage Sales:** If you know of anyone moving, down-sizing or de-cluttering, please keep Melville and our Garage Sales in mind.
- As more and more people find their dollar shrinking, and having to decide between rent and three meals a day, the demand for food bank assistance rises. We ask you to prayerfully consider if you are able to **support the Food Bank**, either with a donation of food, or financially. Food bank use is up 35% over the last three years. The food bank has also calculated that a basket of food and goods that cost \$39.85 in 2021 now costs \$50.83, a 27.55% increase in one year. The Food Bank is asking for your financial support at this challenging time.
Most needed items (as of February 15th):

Pasta Sauce	Mac & Cheese Side Dishes	Chunky Soup (Habitant)
Small Canned Soup	Pasta Side Dishes	Canned Vegetables
Cold Cereal	Peanut Butter Juice	Jam
		Canned Salmon

Well-stocked with:

Pasta	Spaghetti	Tomato Soup	Canned Chickpeas and Lentils
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- **Save your Used Stamps from Incoming Mail:** Cut off your used stamps, leaving a 1/2” border around them and give them to Marlene Tosh or put them in the Stamp Box on the shelf in the Cloak Room, where the Lift is on the main floor of the church. Marlene tidies them up and takes them to the Bible Society, to buy bibles. You can do this year-round!
- **Gifts with Vision: A Giving Catalogue from The United Church of Canada**
 - Give meaningful gifts that make a difference with [Gifts with Vision \(opens in a new tab\)](#)! Each year's gift catalogue gives a glimpse of the breadth of our Mission & Service ministries and programs.
 - *Gifts with Vision* has gift ideas to suit every interest, budget, and person. It’s a great way to celebrate special occasions and honour loved ones!
 - The gift catalogue is updated online regularly, and is fully refreshed every fall. It is also distributed in print with *Broadview* magazine, and mailed to each pastoral charge.
 - **To order gifts, be inspired, or learn more, visit [GiftsWithVision.ca \(opens in a new tab\)](https://GiftsWithVision.ca) today!**

I invite you to join us now for a time of worship and contemplation.

Land Acknowledgement *Peter Chynoweth, Gathering: Pentecost 1 2022, p.33. Used with permission.*

We acknowledge that this land on which we gather for worship is the traditional land of the people of Petun,
Haudenosaunee, (Hoe-day-no-show-nee)
Anishinabewaki,
Mississaugas of the Credit,
Odawa and
Mississauga nations.

We acknowledge that we live on this land as people who have agreed to share the care and use of this land as a result of treaties—the Simcoe Patent-Treaty 4, 1793 and the Haldimand Treaty, 1784—that outline the rights and responsibilities associated with our place in this land. May we be people who remember this with thanksgiving and respect.

Lenten Tenebrae *Won Hur, Gathering: Lent/Easter 2023, p.66-68, alt. Used with permission.*

Six candles are lit, as well as the Christ candle.

We suffer when we do not know who we are.

We are constantly tempted by the seduction of power, the glamour of wealth, and ego-gratifying attention.

We are drawn into these temptations because we forget who we are and whose we are.

When we forget that we are created in God's image, we lose our connection to our soul and to our God.

Like fish out of water we lose our connection to that which gives us life.

We then live with consequences which are hard to bear, for ourselves, for our society, and for our world.

The first candle is extinguished.

Response: Don't Be Afraid

MV90

OneLicense #A-740237

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,

My love is stronger than your fear.

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger

And I have promised, promised to be always near.

Let us pray.

O God, we really do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from you.

Feed us with your wisdom and your truth.

Quench our deepest thirst

to find the peace that you offer to us.

In this journey of Lent, travel with us

as we seek to find our true self,

the self you have created us to be.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn: Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights

VU108

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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.

2 The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God,
who found in weakness greater power,
embraces us, though lost and flawed,
and leads us to his Rising Hour.

3 We bear the silence, cross and pain
of human burdens, human strife,
while sisters, brothers help sustain
our courage till the Feast of Life.

- 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!

- 6 Rejoice, O sons and daughters! Sing
and shout hosannas! Raise the strain!
For Christ, whose death Good Friday brings
on Easter Day will rise again!

Call to Reconciliation *Beth W. Johnston, **Gathering: Lent/Easter 2023**, p.33, alt. Used with permission.*

In this season of Lent, it seems even more important than ever to draw near to God in confession, seeking restoration and the opportunity to begin again. Let us open our hearts in confession, sharing in the prayer seeking forgiveness and reconciliation.

Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation (in unison) *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1, alt..** Copyright 2013.*

**Loving God,
you know the ways of good and evil.
You know the things that tempt us
and the things that give us life.
You know our nakedness,
and you know our sin.
We confess that we have disobeyed your word,
denying your providence and care
and relying on our own cleverness.**

**Have mercy on us, we pray:
cover us with your grace,
feed us with the bread of life,
and re-create us in your image;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Words of Assurance *George Allan, **Gathering: Lent/Easter 2023**, p.36. Used with permission.*

No matter who we are,
No matter what we have done,
God, understanding and forgiving,
Reaches out to enfold us
In loving arms and make us whole.
We are a forgiven people.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Children's Ministry: What We Know about Temptation

Today's worship is brought to us by the words sin, temptation, and forgiveness.

Do you remember the phrase *"lead us not in to temptation, but deliver us from evil"* in the Lord's Prayer. This is one of the hardest parts of the Lord's Prayer to understand. There is another version, the Ecumenical Version that says "save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil" but it is not much easier. So it might help to figure out what temptation is:

a plate of cookies on the counter,

an iced cake on the counter (no one would notice if you took one little finger-full of it),

an item (maybe a cool jacket or phone?) left unattended, or

the student in the next desk has left their work uncovered where you can hardly help but see their answers.

Sometimes we see what's there and just automatically do the right thing without even thinking about it. But other times.... How good we think it would be to be able to get what we want to have or do what we know we should not. It's easy to tell ourselves it will be okay, no one will notice, and they probably won't even care. We convince ourselves that we deserve to have or do that thing. And before we know it, we're going ahead with our wish.

So doing something we're pretty sure we're not supposed to, or automatically doing the right thing – sometimes we can't do the right thing just because we're told to. Sometimes we need God's help. Sometimes we need to pray. Maybe when we hear or say "lead us not into temptation" we can understand it as something like "God, help me know what is right and wrong and be able to do what is right without even thinking about it."

Prayer/Blessing

Hymn: Know That God Is Good MV104

English:

Know that God is good (3x)

God is good, God is good.

Swahili:

Mungu ni mwema, (3x)

Ni mwema, ni mwema.

Swahili pronunciation: Moo-ngoo nee mway-mah

Prayer of Illumination *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word®*

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O God, may the words of your mouth

be our daily bread,

and may the leading of your Spirit

become our way;

in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Scripture: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*)

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil

Then YHWH took the earth creature
and settled it in the garden of Eden
so that it might cultivate and care for the land.

YHWH commanded the earth creature,
“You may eat as much as you like
from any of the trees of the garden—
except the Tree of
the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
You must not eat from that tree,
for on the day you eat from that tree,
that is the day you will die—yes, die.”

Now the woman and the man were both naked,
though they were not ashamed.
But the snake was even more naked:
the most cunning of all the animals that YHWH had made.

The snake asked the woman,
“Did God really tell you not to eat from the trees in the garden?”
The woman answered the snake,
“We may eat fruit from all the other trees in the garden.
But of the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden, God said,
‘Don’t eat it and don’t touch it, or you will die.’”

The snake said to the woman, “Die? You won’t die!
God knows well that on the day that you eat it,
our eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil!”

The woman knew that the tree was enticing to the eye,
and now saw that the fruit was good to eat—
that it was desirable for the knowledge it could give.
So she took some of its fruit and ate it.
She gave some also to the man beside her, and he ate it.

Then the eyes of both of them were opened,
and they realized that they were naked.
So they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Ministry of Music “God of the Movements and Martyrs” – *words and music David LaMotte
offered by Spirit Sings accompanied by Suzanne Flewelling and Rene Crespo*

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*)

The temptation of Jesus

Then Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit,
to be tempted by the Devil.
After fasting for forty days and forty nights,
Jesus was hungry.

Then the tempter approached and said,
“If you are the Only Begotten, command these stones to turn into bread.”
Jesus replied, “Scripture has it,
 ‘We live not on bread alone
 but on every utterance that comes
 from the mouth of God.’”

Next the Devil took Jesus to the Holy City,
set him on the parapet of the Temple and said,
“If you are the Only Begotten, throw yourself down.

Scripture has it,
 ‘God will tell the angels to take care of you;
 with their hands they will support you
 that you may never stumble on a stone.’”

Jesus answered, “Scripture also says, ‘Do not put God to the test.’”

The Devil then took Jesus up to a very high mountain
and displayed all the dominions of the world in their magnificence, promising,
“All these I will give you if you fall down and worship me.”

At this, Jesus said to the Devil, “Away with you Satan!

Scripture says, ‘You will worship the Most High God; God alone will you adore.’”
At that the Devil left, and angels came and attended Jesus.

Prayer *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word**[®] **Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1**. Copyright 2013.*

Wild God of wilderness,

Matt. 4:1–11

as we devote these forty days to you,
shape us by your Holy Spirit
into the image of Christ our Lord,
so that we may be ready, by your grace,
to confront the power of death
with the promise of eternal life. **Amen.**

May the words I speak and the reflection that we all share
find a response that is worthy of you,
most Just, most Loving, and most Compassionate God. Amen.

David Sparks, *Summerland, B.C.*

Reflection: Identity Theft

My kids have taken on a bit of an interest in genealogy. Some of it has come from having to fill out forms that ask questions, usually medical, about relatives. Has any parent or grandparent or aunt/uncle had x medical condition. We sometimes get quite far afield from the filling out of the form, talking about maternal grandmothers and paternal uncles and the like.

It points out to me how central to one’s identity is the relationships in their life. We often think of identity as very personal. Sometimes we catch that sense in a remark like, “I had to take some time to figure out who I was.” But regardless of this sort of understanding, our relationships are key to our identities. I can’t be a mother without kids, you can’t be a husband without a wife and vice versa, none of us can be citizens without a country of other citizens and so on.

What I say about myself ends up being a lot about other and how I am in relation with them. My identity is largely derived from my relationships.

That “relational identity” is key to understanding our scripture readings for this week. Both the Genesis and Matthew readings tell about temptation. And while we might be inclined – dare I say “tempted” – to describe the temptations in terms of status or power, they really say more about identity.

In Genesis the serpent offers both Adam and Eve (and let’s be clear that *both* are present throughout the encounter) the promise of God-like knowledge. The serpent starts with Eve by asking “Did God really tell you...”, sowing seeds of doubt, and then proclaims, “You won’t die,” thereby contradicting the words of God.

The serpent does an effective job of undermining Adam and Eve’s confidence in God, then invites them to establish themselves – crafting their own identity – independent of their relationship with God. “...your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil!” Who needs God when you can be “like God” all by yourself. They fall for the serpent’s quick tongue and try to define themselves apart from God. In the end, though, they only define themselves against each other, as they realize their nakedness and attempt to hide it from one another.

In Matthew we may consider that the devil’s temptations include the desire to feel secure in our wellbeing – stones into bread is like winning the lottery or another windfall; being caught by an angel is to be right, and seen as righteous, worthy of the angel’s efforts; ruling over others is like having power and control—again, each temptation is primarily about identity.

The devil starts by trying to undermine the identity Jesus has been given immediately before this at his baptism: “*If you are the Only Begotten [of God]...*” and his identity is called into question. The devil, just like with Adam and Eve seeks to rob Jesus of his God-given identity and replace it with a false one that he has manufactured himself.

Jesus is well-versed in the Torah and rather than brute strength or force of will, he resists this first temptation by citing his relationship, his absolute dependence on God: “We live...on every utterance that comes from the mouth of God.” It also speaks to his relating to others, who are also hungry.

He will be also at risk and vulnerable as all others are, finding safety and security in the promises of God. And he will refuse to define himself as king or ruler or seek power apart from his relationship with God. He will worship only the one true God who created and sustains him.

Jesus, as Paul writes in Romans 5, offers us an abundance of grace and life through his obedient dependence on God for his identity. Not only that, but Jesus also offers us an example, a refuge in times of temptation.

It is not just the devil that seeks to steal our identity. Day after day we are besieged by countless advertisements that seek to create a sense of lack, of insecurity and inadequacy. These ads undermine our God-given gift of identity with the promise that if we buy this car or that moisturizer, or make our teeth brighter, we will be acceptable. Because, of course, the message of the consumer-consumption culture is simple: *you are not enough*. You’re not skinny enough or smart enough or pretty enough or strong enough or rich enough to deserve respect, love and acceptance.

But it’s a *lie*, a demonic attempt at a kind of identity theft far worse than the online and scam artist ones we’ve been trained to fear. And Jesus offers us a way out, a way to safeguard our identity by lodging it in God’s good gift and promise.

Not only that, but Jesus does even more. He demonstrates just how deeply God loves us by going to the cross. You see, Jesus didn't die on the cross in order that we might be acceptable, or to make God love us. Instead, Jesus died to show us that God already loves us, and that we are more than acceptable—we are treasured, priceless beyond measure.

Jesus relies on his baptism, that moment when God claims him as a Beloved One, to safeguard himself against the temptations the devil puts before him. We too are baptized, and inscribed on our foreheads at our baptism is God's declaration that we are worthy of love, dignity and respect, and that God has pledged to be both with us and for us for the whole of our lives.

Maybe you can think of a time this past week when you felt inadequate or unworthy.

...

God has declared in Jesus that you are enough, more than enough, for God has accepted you as God's own beloved children.

May you remember with joy and thanksgiving who you are, and whose you are.

Ministry of Music "A Christian's Daily Prayer" – by Jordan Kauflin, Dave Fournier and Matt Merker offered by Spirit Sings accompanied by Suzanne Flewelling and Rene Crespo

Joys and Concerns

- Happy Birthday
 - Helen Thompson celebrates on Sat. Mar. 4th

- We offer our deepest condolences to
 - Barry Rawn and family on the passing of his mother **Reta Rawn** who passed away Thursday, February 23rd
 - Marbeth McLean and family on the passing of her son-in-law **Josh King** who passed away Wednesday, February 22nd. Josh is survived by his wife Kelly and their 5-year old son, Norman.
 - the family of **Ilse Jakelski** who passed away Thursday, February 9th, 2023 her funeral took place February 24th.

Please keep the families in your thoughts and prayers.

Minute for Mission: Your Generosity Revitalizes Languages



Credit: Haida Gwaii, Skidegate

Take a moment to think about your favourite story.

Now imagine that story being at risk of disappearing because the language it's written in is endangered. This is something that nine Elders from Haida Gwaii are passionately trying to change.

Once there were over 15,000 fluent speakers of Haida, but today, because of assimilation tactics like residential schools, almost all Haida people speak English at home. The nine Elders—with an average age of more than 80—represent about half of the fluent Haida speakers who remain.

With partner support, the work of these Elders in a research-based revitalization project keeps the Haida language alive and growing.

The Elders are teaching students the words, phrases, songs and stories of their ancestors. The response has been empowering, with language learners near and far dedicating themselves to study. Lessons are given through the Longhouse of Skidegate village, but the program reaches much further, with more than 120 online lessons available. The opportunity to connect across the globe has allowed Haida language, stories, and culture to be shared broadly.

The program also gives young people from the Haida Nation the opportunity to connect with the Elders to nurture their cultural pride and understanding. "I appreciate the work the Elders are doing with our language and culture," said one young student. "They work very hard every day so that my generation can remember."

The Haida language is not the only Indigenous language that has been endangered. Your gifts to [Mission & Service](#) support programs and partnerships for Indigenous cultural revitalization around the world.

Offering Invitation *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word®** Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1. Copyright 2013.*

As God so freely offers us
the gift of life in Jesus Christ,
let us respond with gratitude,
offering our lives to God.

Offering Hymn: When We Are Living VU581 OneLicense #A-740237

Through all our living, we our fruits must give.
Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving,
we belong to God, we belong to God.

Offering Prayer (in unison) *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word®** Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1. Copyright 2013.*

**We give you thanks and praise, O God,
for the free and abundant gift of grace
you have given us in Jesus Christ.
Let the simple gifts of our lives
be a sign of our unending gratitude
for your undying love;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

The celebration of communion
is always a festival of friends,
a pulling together of our loves and our hopes,
our moments of agony and our glimpses of victory.
It is here, where bread is broken and wine is shared,
that we can most fully be ourselves
and see others for who they truly are:
sons and daughters of the living God.
Here the common things of life—
bread and wine,
memories and dreams—
become holy, touched by God.
Here that which is earthly becomes divine,
and that which is human
becomes more than it has ever dreamed.

Hymn: Bread of Life, Feed My Soul

MV194

OneLicense #A-740237

- 1 Bread of life, feed my soul
as the presence of the Spirit makes me whole.
Bread of life, fill my heart
with the grace and mercy you impart.
- 2 I have heard your voice calling,
“Come, my friend, and share
in the feast that is laid out for you
to show how much I care.”
- 3 Bread of life, help me live
a life as pure and true as Jesus did.
Bread of life, help me see
the boundless love of Christ for you and me.
- 4 I have heard your voice calling,
“Come, my friend, and share
in the feast that is laid out for you
to show how much I care.”
- 5 Bread of life, feed my soul,
as the presence of the Spirit makes me whole.
Bread of life, fill my heart
with the grace and mercy you impart

Prayer of Thanksgiving *adapted from a prayer by Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/communion for February 26, 2022 (Lent 1 - A) <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>. Used with permission.*

The Lamb of God be with you!

and also with you!

All who search for God, lift your hearts.

We offer them to the One who comes searching for us in the wilderness of life.

People of God, sing praises to the Lord.

We worship our God, and will serve God alone.

You tilled the barrenness
of chaos, Gardener of Genesis...

...in every time and place,
we lift our glad cries of deliverance:

**Creator of the stars of night,
Your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
We pray you hear us when we call.**

Holy are you, God of goodness and glory...

...even as we sing of that mystery called faith:

**At your great name, O Jesus, now
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
All things on earth with one accord,
Like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.**

On the night before Jesus was taken away to his death...

...singing through all eternity
of the One who has brought us home:

**To God the Parent, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Praise, honor, might, and glory be
From age to age eternally. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer:

We gather these and all our prayers,
and with Jesus,
we pray:

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Preparation

As we come to this table,
we are reminded that this is not the table
of this community of faith;
nor is it the table of The United Church of Canada,
or any particular denomination.

This is the table of Jesus Christ, the family feast of the whole people of God.

We come to this table, and participate in this meal,
not because anything we have done entitles us to be here,
not because somehow we have earned a place;
this is not the table of the perfect,
but the table of the broken.

All who seek to be nourished and sustained in the journey of faith
and long to live justly and in peace with their neighbour, are welcome here.

Breaking and Distribution of the Elements

As we join together as community
and around this table

may we know that this is:
the body of Christ broken for us:
the blood of Christ shed for us.

May they nourish our bodies for the journey ahead
and quench our thirst for peace and justice.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come, for all things are now ready.

Jesus Christ - bread for the journey.

Jesus Christ - the wine of arrival.

Prayer after Communion

**We give thanks that bread broken brings wholeness;
that wine poured out replenishes;
that time spent with the Risen Christ and one another
is gift and grace.**

Amen.

Hymn: Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song VU641 OneLicense #A-740237

1 Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey,
I'll tell everybody about you wherever I go:
for our life and our peace and our love is yourself.
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.

2 Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.

3 As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant
to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears,

for you saved me by giving your body and blood.
As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.

- 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey,
but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side;
and with all of my brothers you saved by your love,
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.

Commissioning *Fern Gibbard, Gathering: Lent/Easter 2023, p.37. Used with permission.*

Go out from here, secure in God's promises.
Take with you the knowledge of God's presence.
Offer to all the hospitality and the welcome of Christ,
whose love provides a home for every heart.

Change the Light

Watch. I am going to change the light and I invite you to change your light.
I'm not going to put it out, just change it.
See how it is only in one place?
Change Light and I invite you to change your light at home
Can you see it? Now it is moving everywhere, to everyone, with everyone.
Now everywhere you go today, the light will go with you.

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May the steadfast love of God surround you
throughout these forty days
and into everlasting life.

Postlude MV138 "My Love Colours Outside the Lines" by Gordon Light, arranged by Andrew Donaldson *offered by Suzanne Flewelling and Rene Crespo*

Household Prayer: Morning *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1. Copyright 2013.*

Holy God, as this day surrounds me
like a garden with a thousand trees,
give me enough knowledge
to obey your commandments,
and to choose the fruit that gives life:
the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1, alt. Copyright 2013.*

Where can I hide from you, O God?
You have found me here,
stained with the fruit of desire,
shivering in the evening breeze.
This is all I ask:
wrap me in your mercy,
and let me rest in your presence;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.