

CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH



10:30 AM SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023

LENT 3

CAPTAIN BEATRICE GALE, RMC CHAPLAIN

"WHAT IS TRUTH?"

COVID PRECAUTIONS

1. Self-screening guidelines: If you have Covid symptoms or are isolating due to close contact, you should not attend in person. Services are also live-streamed.
2. Masking is encouraged but no longer mandatory.
Many will still choose to remain masked for their own or for others' safety. We welcome this choice and urge everyone to respect individuals' choices - each according to their own personal situation.
3. Social distancing still continues in the sanctuary and MacCallum Hall.

Bold Text *indicates the parts that everyone reads together.*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Aria in G - G.F. Handel

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

Since time immemorial, Indigenous peoples have occupied and cared for this land. In acknowledging this land, the traditional home of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee, we seek to rebuild right relations with First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples, to learn from them, and to live on this land with respect and gratitude for its bounty.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: We light this candle to remind us that Christ is the light of the world and present in our midst.

All: May the life and words of Jesus enlighten us on our way.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Alright God, it's Lent and we came to church - now what?

All: We need you to show up, God. We need your presence.

One: We are asking for you to be with us in this time of offering up and deepening spirituality.

All: Otherwise, we will be lost.

One: Remember us, God; give us confidence in our hope in you.

All: We come to find our way through worship.

One: Come Holy Spirit! Show us the way.

All: We seek to follow the way of Jesus.

CENTERING PRAYER

One: Our seeking of truth is one that starts and ends with you, God, but the path is littered with temptation, with falsehood, and with easy answers. May we never be satisfied with anything but the truth. As God calls us, we yearn and learn, we grow and change. We are

followers of Jesus the Christ, who shows us by example that we can only be filled by opening ourselves up.

All: Break down all the barriers between you and us, God. Give us clarity through the mystery, give us strength through the suffering, give us courage through the strangeness of change. May we receive your love as freely as we are willing to share it. Amen.

HYMN MV 79 *Spirit, Open My Heart*

Refrain:

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.**

1 God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.

2 Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory.

3 May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another. **R**

Words: Ruth Duck 1994 © 1996

Music: trad. melody, Ireland; arr. Arthur G. Clyde, 1997 © 1997 The Pilgrim Press

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A WORLD ENGAGED WITH GOD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Holy One, Sacred Mystery,
greater than words can express; whose love for us and all
creation exceeds our capacity to imagine, open our hearts and
minds. Amen.**

READINGS

Bel and the Dragon 1: 1 - 22

John 18: 36 - 38a

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN MV 82 *Bathe Me in Your Light*

- 1** Bathe me in your light, O God of All, Creator;
let it shine upon my soul with healing and with grace.
Be to me a beacon bright through shadows of life's wounding,
showing me the way to live in faith, in your embrace.
- 2** Bathe me in your love, O Source of Awe and Wonder;
help me walk the sacred path of harmony and peace.
May I be attentive to the musings of your presence,
drinking from the well of hope that brings the heart release.
- 3** Bathe me in your grace, O One of Spirit's longing;
teach me of your gentle ways that fill the soul with strength.
Guide me on the pilgrimage that leads to truth and wholeness,
fill me with your promise of a love that knows no length.

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SERMON

What Is Truth?

Rev. Cpt. Gale

COMMITTING TO THE FUTURE

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

DOXOLOGY

HYMN VU 541 *Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low; give
thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit, One.

Words: Thomas Ken ca. 1674 Music: Genevan Psalter 1551 Used
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PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

God, source of our being, set the world right
We ask that everyone's basic needs are met
Give us another chance
and help us let go of our grudges
Keep us safe from ourselves and destructive behaviours,
because hope, faith, and love are what matter most
They're more powerful than anything,
even death. Amen

HYMN MV 163 *River Running in You and Me*

- 1 River running in you and me,
Spirit of life, deep mystery,
dancing down to the holy sea,
river run deep river run free.
- 2 River laughed on my birthing day,
wind and water joined in play
soaked my soul in a shining spray,
river run deep river run free.
- 3 River, cry my name to me,
lend me hope and memory,
sing me the story of the holy sea,
river run deep river run free.
- 4 I stand on the edge, lookin' down,
too scared to swim, afraid I'll drown
give me the courage to journey on,
river run deep river run free.
- 5 Journey on far from my home,
river break this heart of stone;
teach me to love, make me your own.
river run deep river run free.
- 6 Hold me close on the day I die,
bear me up when my sould is tired,
carry me home on the rising tide,
river run deep river run free.
- 7 River singin' in you and me,
spirit of life deep mystery
catch us up in your melody
river run deep river run free.

Words and Music: Ian Macdonald and Gordon Light, 2003, arr. Andrew Donaldson
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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Nelligan - Andre Gagnon

THANK YOU FOR TALENTS SHARED

Minister

Rev (Captain) Beatrice Gale, RMC Chaplain

Captain the Reverend Beatrice Gale has been a United Church minister for 15 years, serving Memorial United Church in Prince Edward Island and then Brookfield Pastoral Charge in Nova Scotia before joining the Canadian Army in January 2017. She began her military journey at CFB Gagetown, working for the Royal Canadian Artillery School, the Infantry School, and the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment, with whom she deployed to Latvia in 2020. She moved to Kingston in 2021, working with the military intelligence community before moving to the Royal Military College in 2022, where she serves currently. Padre Bea is the first openly transgender chaplain in the Canadian military.

Co-Liturgist

Linda Steinberg

Organist

Juliet Milsome

Hymn Singers

Members of Chalmers Choir

Media Techs

Brigitta Holzschuh, Aidan McClung

Refreshments

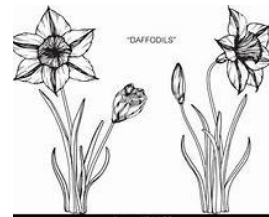
Heather Faris

Counters

Murray Anderson, Jane McEwen

Daffodils in the sanctuary today
and next week are dedicated to:

The Promise of Spring





To submit materials for the bulletin please use: bulletin@chalmersunitedchurch.com Please send announcements by end of day Monday, or late editions by end of day Tuesday for inclusion the following Sunday.

Please send verbal announcements to: bulletin@chalmersunitedchurch.com and Linda Steinberg hpsesp14@gmail.com

At 10:30 join us in person at Chalmers or watch live-streamed on Chalmers' YouTube channel. The service will also be posted later to the same channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUgl1tZaiRji18sFwj2P2Q>

The link for Chalmers YouTube channel can also be found on the home page of the Chalmers website www.chalmersunitedchurch.org

After the service, you are invited to share refreshments and conversation.

Chalmers United Church

212 Barrie St. Kingston, K7L 3K3

t 613-546-3263 x 221

e office@chalmersunitedchurch.com

w www.chalmersunitedchurch.com

The Rev. David King, Chalmers' Administrator

e david@narrowgate.ca