

[illegible]

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

## "TEMPTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY"

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

Angela Stewart

*Verset* - Léon Boëllmann

*Adagio from Toccata Undecima* - Georg Muffat

### 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: Lent is an opportunity prior to Easter to focus our attention deeper into our inner lives.

**All: As we do this we become aware of our need for honesty and reconciliation.**

One: We mark this holy season by acknowledging our need for God's mercy and forgiveness.

**All: In worship today we give thanks that we can be honest with God about our imperfections**

One: And we give thanks that God meets us in this place with acceptance and forgiveness.

#### CENTERING PRAYER

Creating God, Centre and Source of the world in which we live we come to you in a season of turning and returning. We do not know how to seek you with our whole hearts but we know you are our source and destiny. In the midst of our life today in all its demands

and difficulties we turn to you. We thank you that with grace you touch the broken heart, the troubled conscience the conflicted spirit. **Amen.**

**HYMN VU 108** *Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights* v. 1-4

**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.

Words: James Gertmenian © 11993 Hope Pub. Co.

Music: Musikalisches Handbuch, Hamburg, 1690 arr. W.H. Havergal 1864

Used with Permission under license #A0715424 OneLicence.net

## 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

**HYMN VU Psalter pg. 748** *God is My Shepherd*

Psalms 23

**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.

Words: Scottish Psalter 1650, adapt. Lavon Bayler 1992

Music: James Leith Macbeth Bain 1915, harm. Gordon Jacob 1934, adapt. Walter  
W. Felton 1955 Words: adaptation © 1992 The Pilgrim Press Harmony by  
permission of Oxford University Press. Used with Permission under license  
#A0715424 OneLicence.net

Matthew 3: 16 – 4: 11

John 9: 1 - 41

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN VU 112** *Our God, How We Have Wandered*

**1** O God, how we have wandered  
and hidden from your face;  
in foolishness have squandered  
your legacy of grace.  
But how, in exile dwelling,  
we turn with fear and shame,  
as distant but compelling,  
you call us each by name.

**2** And now at length discerning  
the evil that we do,  
by faith we are returning  
with hope and trust in you.  
In haste you come to meet us,  
and home rejoicing bring,  
in gladness there to greet us  
with calf and robe and ring.

**3** O God of all the living,  
both banished and restored,  
compassionate, forgiving,  
our peace and hope assured.  
Grant now that our transgressing,  
our faithlessness may cease.  
Stretch out your hand in blessing,  
in pardon, and in peace.

Words: Kevin Nichols 1980 © International Committee on English in the Liturgy  
Inc. Music: Henry t. Smart 1836  
Used with Permission under license #A0715424 OneLicence.net

**SERMON**

*Temptations and Responsibility*

Rev. Dr. Don Misener

## 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  
by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

#### PASTORAL PRAYER

##### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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.

**HYMN VU 115** *Jesus, Tempted in the Desert*

**1** Jesus, tempted in the desert,  
lonely, hungry, filled with dread:  
"Use your power," the tempter tells him;  
"turn these barren rocks to bread!"  
"Not alone by bread, he answers,  
can the human heart be filled.  
Only by the Word that calls us  
is our deepest hunger stilled!"

2 Jesus, tempted at the temple,  
high above its ancient wall:  
"Throw yourself from lofty turret;  
angels wait to break your fall!"  
Jesus shuns such empty marvels,  
feats that fickle crowds request:  
"God, whose grace protects, preserves us,  
we must never vainly test."

3 Jesus, tempted on the mountain  
by the lure of vast domain:  
"Fall before me! Be my servant!  
Glory, fame, you're sure to gain:  
Jesus sees the dazzling vision,  
turns his eyes another way:  
"God alone deserves our homage!  
God alone will I obey!"

4 When we face temptation's power,  
lonely, struggling, filled with dread,  
Christ, who knew the tempter's hour,  
come and be our living bread.  
By your grace, protect, preserve us  
lest we fall, your trust betray.  
Yours, above all other voices,  
be the Word we hear, obey.

Words: Herman Stuempfle, 1990 © G.I.A. Pub. Inc.  
Music: The Sacred Harp, 1844, harm. Ronald A. Nelson 1978 © 1978 Lutheran  
Book of Worship, Augsburg Fortress  
Used with Permission under license #A0715424 OneLicence.net

## **BENEDICTION**

### **CHORAL BENEDICTION**

VU 430

God be in my head, and in my understanding.  
God be in mine eyes and in my looking.  
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking.  
God be at mine end, and at my departing. **Amen.**

Words: The Book of Hours (1514) Music: Walford Davies, 1910  
Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

## **POSTLUDE**

*Prelude and Fugue in d minor*

Angela Stewart  
BWV 554 - J.S. Bach

## THANK YOU FOR TALENTS SHARED

### Minister

#### Rev. Dr. Don Misener

Born and raised on a farm near Brantford, Ontario in 1943 Don has ministered in a variety of settings including Kingston Pen, St Paul's Hospital and College of Emmanuel and St Chad in Saskatoon, Kingston Institute of Pastoral Care and congregations in eastern Ontario. In all of these settings he has taught a ministry of spiritual care. He is currently providing an interim pastoral care ministry to Chalmers shut ins and at Zion United Church. Don is married to Bonnie who has co-taught pastoral and spiritual care with him. They are parents of 3 boys and grandparents of 9.

### Reader

Janice Moncrieff

### Co-Liturgist

Linda Steinberg

### Organist

Juliet Milsome

### Guest Organist

Angela Stewart

### Hymn Singers

Members of Chalmers Choir

### Media Techs

Brigitta Holzschuh, Aidan McClung

### Refreshments

Janice Moncrieff

### Counters

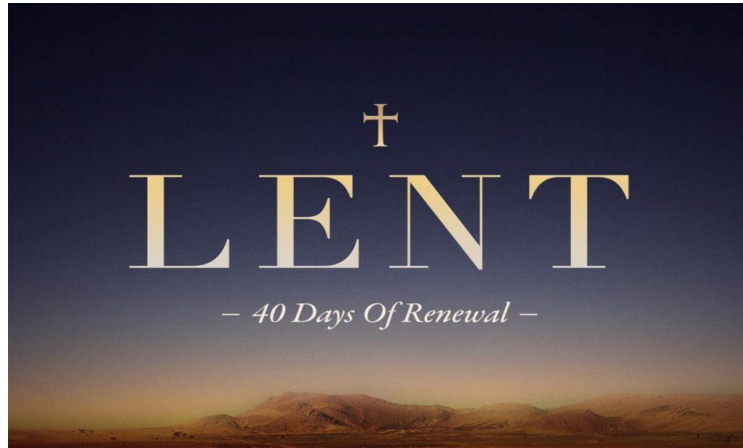
Murray Anderson, Gerald McGrath

Daffodils in the sanctuary today  
are dedicated to

*The Promise of Spring*







## LENT 2023

Lent is a special annual season in the life of the Christian community.

While the five weeks of Advent take us to the spiritual mountaintop of God's grace in Jesus birth leading up to Christmas.

Lent takes us into the valley of serious reflection on our life and our commitments leading up to Easter.

This year Lent begins Ash Wednesday (Feb 22) and ends on the Saturday before Easter (April 8). Ash Wednesday traditionally is associated with repentance and grieving the consequences of sin.

Lent is a time for serious self-examination and growth in Christian commitment.

# **TRADITIONAL LENTEN DISCIPLINES**

## **Worship and Meditation**

During Lent there are usually additional opportunities for public worship that encourage Bible Study, prayer and meditation on God's liberating grace.

## **Fasting and Abstinence**

For some, is an aid to devotional life.

For many Christians, this has to do with giving up certain foods or activities throughout the 46 days of Lent. Some also set aside certain days (Wednesdays and Fridays) for more rigorous fasting.

## **Almsgiving**

Many Christians combine almsgiving with fasting, giving to the poor money saved by eating, drinking or buying less in keeping with this season.

## LENTEN REFLECTION ON FASTING

In our consumer culture Lent can help us to refocus our life on what is spiritually essential and life-giving. But, we do not fast, just for the sake of denying ourselves something of value.

The purpose of self-denial is to awaken us more fully to what is truly important and to help us mature in our relationship with God.

As we fast from certain negative attitudes we are encouraged to feast on more life-giving attitudes.

**Lent is a season when we can creatively explore how to:**

- ✓ Fast from judging others so we can feast on the Christ within them.
- ✓ Fast from pessimism so we can feast on the beauty of God's creation.
- ✓ Fast from discontent so we can feast on gratitude.
- ✓ Fast from worry so we can feast on trust.
- ✓ Fast from complaining so we can feast on appreciation.
- ✓ Fast from bitterness so we can feast on forgiveness.
- ✓ Fast from self-preoccupation so we can feast on compassion for others.
- ✓ Fast from negative thinking, so we can feast on Christian hope.
- ✓ Fast from emphasizing our religious differences, to feast on the beliefs dreams and hopes we share, in common with all people.

**You are invited to add one that fits you at this time.**

- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_



**To submit materials for the bulletin** please use: [bulletin@chalmersunitedchurch.com](mailto: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](mailto:bulletin@chalmersunitedchurch.com)

and Linda Steinberg [hpsesp14@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:office@chalmersunitedchurch.com)

**w** [www.chalmersunitedchurch.com](http://www.chalmersunitedchurch.com)

The Rev. David King, Chalmers' Administrator

**e** [david@narrowgate.ca](mailto:david@narrowgate.ca)