

CALVARY UNITED CHURCH
114 – 25th Street East S6V 1S5

ORDER OF MINISTRY: Nora Vedress

STUDENT MINISTER: Samantha Clayton

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Thien Dinh Quang
ADMIN. ASSISTANT: Arthur Karakochuk

www.calvaryunitedpa.ca

Office Phone: 306-763-8695

Sunday, March 26, 2023

Fifth Sunday of Lent

As we join in worship this day we celebrate that Calvary United Church is an Affirming Ministry. We commit ourselves to being a place of worship that is open and welcoming to all those seeking Sanctuary and celebrate the diversity that exists among us.

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 Territory. We honour the Cree and Metis people for whom this place has been a homeland. We respect the sacredness of our home and the ground on which we walk and we are grateful to gather together here in peace and hope.

WE GATHER AS A COMMUNITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: "Will Your Anchor Hold" VU675

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: How good it is that you are here, my friends, that we are gathered here to praise and remember the promises of our maker here in this Lenten time.

All: We are gathered here to remember that God, like an anchor, will hold us steadfast in life's stormy seasons.

One: We are here to find a home in this sanctuary and with our God, who is always there for us like a shelter to lean on and find solace in.

PRAYER OF ADORATION (adapted from Rev. Richard Bott)

One: Let us Pray...

You brought all things into being, with the breath of the Spirit, who flew over the waters of chaos and brought order: light, water, earth, plants, animals, and humankind!

PRINCE ALBERT, SASKATCHEWAN

calvaryunited@sasktel.net

min1.calvuc@sasktel.net

min2.calvuc@sasktel.net

All: And you declared it was good. Very good.

One: You gave things new life, with the breath of the Spirit: the dry bones in the desert, the little girl, dead, on her bed, Lazarus, who had been sealed up in his tomb, for three days!

Whenever we turned away from you, whenever we forgot who you were, whenever we forgot who we were, you breathed your love into us and called us back to you, again and again and again!

All: And you declare it is good. Very good.

One: When the time was right, you sent Jesus, the One, born like us, to be one with us, to save us from ourselves. Born like us, to teach us with his words and his actions, his life and his death, that your love can overcome all wrong, all loss, all brokenness.

All: And we declare that you are good. Very good. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Wonderful Peace" by the Calvary Quartet with Lorna Gibson (W. D. Cornell and W. G. Cooper, arr. R Gibson)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Today in our lectionary we are called to sit with the uncomfortable things that we would rather not face at all.

All: What other discomforts do we not face, God?

One: What realities of this world make us switch off the TV? Avoid making eye contact with people on the street, skirt around issues, and wall off our minds and think of happier thoughts?

All: We are all guilty of shielding ourselves from life's harshness, guilty of trying to close ourselves to the bad things, the hard things.

One: We know you are here, God, but sometimes it is easy to tune you out and not see, feel, or experience your presence in the hard or harsh parts of our lives.

All: Forgive us, God, for putting you out of our minds, or pretending you are nowhere to be found in the things that we would rather not do and letting that be a reason we turn away.

One: Hear now, our ever-present Creator, the things that we lift to you on our lips and in our hearts as we make our silent confessions to you.

Silent Prayers of Confession

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

We are often guilty, God, but in the admission of guilt you allow us to build resilience, and help us to realize that even before we asked your forgiveness it was already granted to us. You touch everything in this world, you have loved us from the beginning of our lives and will continue to the end of our days. You sent your son for us, so we could know the depth of your love and remind us that in you all is forgiven.

THE OFFERING: *please remain seated while the offering is collected*

OFFERING HYMN: "Grant us, God, the Grace" VU540

OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: The gifts that we are so lucky to be able to give back to your ministry of good work are given freely and with gladness. O God, let us be giving people all the days of our lives. Giving of our wealth, our time, our presence and our patience. As well let us feel the gifts that are shared here today through our various ministries in this community and the wider one. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN: "One More Step Along the World I Go" (vs1,2) VU639

STORY

HYMN: "One More Step Along the World I Go" (vs4,5) VU639

SCRIPTURE:

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130 VU853

John 11:1-45

SERMON

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: "Like a Healing Stream"

MV144

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

This Lenten time takes us on a journey through the wilderness of the human experience, we are asked to wrestle with passages in our ancestors' words that are confusing and uncomfortable. We are asked to let in ideas that seem impossible. Yet we know that with God all things are possible. We know that we are not alone, and that our wandering and contemplations in this time are all with God at our side, and with Jesus as our example. No, we cannot miraculously heal the dead or watch a field of dry bones be whole once more, but we can find a message in these stories. We can use our understanding of Jesus' compassion for his friend to be our guide on our path. We can go out as one people of God united in love and the pursuit for justice for all people. As we go this day, we will recite the words of our new creed that will be our reminder this 5th week of lent where we are situated.

THE NEW CREED

VU918

All: Amen.

HYMN: "Now on Land and Sea Descending" (vs2,4)

VU432

MINISTRY OF MUSIC