



Covenant

The United Church of Canada

a safe place for all people to worship

Ministers: the people
and Rev. Cindy Désilets

18 February 2018

Lent 1^b

Acknowledgement of Land
(An act towards reconciliation)

Gathering

The gong is sounded three times

ENTRY INTO THE CELEBRATION

From season to season, this world, through its phases,
shows love has no dearth.

This love is for sharing,
to nurture well-being,
to echo God's call. *(Adapt.APratt/hfw)*

So let us celebrate this richness and diversity of life.

HYMN: WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS VU 664

LIGHTING OF THE COMMUNITY CANDLE

**In this place of friendship there is freedom.
Let the light we kindle go before us, strong in hope,
wide in good will, inviting the day to come.**

The community candle is lit

BAPTISM: VINCE ROBERT SCRIPNICK

HYMN: CALLED BY EARTH AND SKY

MV 135

OPENING SENTENCES

As we gather to remember and share stories of faith,
let us rejoice in the presentness of God.

**Before our stories began, there was God;
through all our days, God walks with us.**

God's creative presence is moving among us.
Let us sing praises and offer thanks.

Dance with the God who frees us for new possibilities.
We seek to grow in faith and in love for one another.

ACT OF AWARENESS

**For all that is our life we offer thanks and praise.
For all life is a gift which we are called to use,
to build the store of common good.**

**May we know once again that we are not isolated
beings
but connected, in mystery and miracle,
to the universe,
to this community, and
to each other.**

Centering

Silence and Music of Reflection

Exploring

READINGS FROM OUR BROAD RELIGIOUS TRADITION

'Thoughts in the Desert'

By Bruce Prewer. More Australian Psalms/135.

Traditional Gospel: **Mark 1: 12-15** *(Inclusive Text)*

CONTEMPORARY EXPLORATION

HYMN:

**O FOR A WORLD WHERE EVERYONE
RESPECTS EACH OTHER'S WAYS**

VU 697

Affirming & Celebrating

PRAYERS

OUR OFFERINGS

Our offerings for the celebration of life in this place and beyond,
shall now be received.

PRESENTATION WHAT CAN I DO?

MV 191

We are called to make real the sharing of the gifts God has
given to us. We offer what we have for the good of all.

Scattering

HYMN: I WAS THERE TO HEAR YOUR BORNING CRY

VU 644

PARTING WORDS

Time has now come for us to leave this sacred place.
As we do, may we embrace the challenges
of our lives and our world... *The candle is extinguished*

Go out from this place to your daily journey through life.

**As we do, may we fashion relationships of inclusion
and reconciliation, and a life-style that loves
and treats people and the earth gently, as God does.**

And may the Holy One surprise us all on the way.

WORDS OF BLESSING

May the God you see in all the colours of creation
arouse in you a sense of awe and wonder.

May the God who is a sacred presence be real to you.

May the God who is a source of inspiration and courage
keep calling you forward.

May your God go with you, and bless you. *(FMacnab)*
Amen. May it be so.

SUNG RESPONSE: MAY GOD WHO CREATES YOU

VU 454

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