



# Covenant

*The United Church of Canada*

a safe place for all people to worship

Ministers: the people

24 March 2019  
Lent 3<sup>c</sup>

**Acknowledgement of Land**  
*(An act towards reconciliation)*

## *Gathering*

### **ENTRY INTO THE CELEBRATION**

*The gong is sounded three times*

Come into this gathering.  
May this time together be creative  
Of a new outreach of trust and confidence  
That life was meant to be lived at the full tide. *Bob Holmes*

**LET US CELEBRATE**

**THIS RICHNESS AND DIVERSITY OF LIFE.**

### **LIGHTING OF THE COMMUNITY CANDLE**

*The candle is lit*

**HYMN: SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD**

**VU 376**

### **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

**HYMN: WHAT CAN I DO?**

**MV 191**

### **OPENING SENTENCES**

In hope, in longing  
**We're glad to come together.**

In trust, in community  
**We're glad to come together.**

In many moods, in many shapes and sizes  
**We're glad to come together.**

In peace, in joy  
**We're glad to come together.**

In solidarity with those who struggle  
**We're glad to come together in this Lenten season.** *(Nelson-Pallmeyer/wsj)*

### **PRAYER OF AWARENESS**

Remind us, O Spirit, that life is worth living.  
Remind us, O Creator, that the struggle for justice is worth undertaking.  
Remind us, O Mercy, that love and action are one.  
May it be so. *(Nelson-Pallmeyer/wsj)*

## *Centering*

Silence and Music of Reflection

# Exploring

## READINGS FROM OUR BROAD RELIGIOUS TRADITION

The World Around Us: "Grounded Faith"

By Henry Nelson Wieman.

Reprinted in **Outstretched Wings of the Spirit**/17.

Traditional Gospel: Luke 13:1-9 (*Inclusive Text*)

## CONTEMPORARY EXPLORATION

**HYMN: LONG BEFORE THE NIGHT**

VU 282

# Affirming & Celebrating

## PRAYERS

## OUR OFFERINGS

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

**PRESENTATION** As the deer pants for the water

VU 766

**Open our eyes, our ears, our mouths.**

**Let us be doers of the word and not hearers only,**

**taking on those tasks set before us**

**with uncommon vision and**

**wholehearted expectation.** Francis Macnab/h

# Scattering

## PARTING WORDS

The God we worship is never confined to this holy place.  
So go and travel with the God who is found  
in ordinary and surprising places.

Those who dodge growing pains  
will never arrive at their full spiritual height.

As you prepare to leave this sacred place,  
pray that you may have the courage to stretch once more  
towards the goals set by the Man of Nazareth.

**There is no shame in failing.**

**But there is in not trying.** (*Bruce Prewer*).

## WORDS OF BLESSING

May the love that gives to life its beauty,  
the reverence that gives to life its sacredness,  
and the purposes that give to life its deep significance,  
be strong within each of us and lead us  
into ever deepening relationships with all of life. *GGBrooks*

**AMEN. MAY IT BE SO.**

## SUNG RESPONSE

YOU SHALL GO OUT WITH JOY

VU 884

Bulletin Covers in memory of  
**Marcel Roberge**  
from the Stanlake Family