

**COVENANT UNITED CHURCH  
LENT 3  
MARCH 15, 2020**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND  
(AN ACT TOWARDS RECONCILIATION)**

**GATHERING**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WELCOME**

**ENTRY INTO THE CELEBRATION**

Let there be joy in our coming together this morning.  
And let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life.

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

*The Christ candle is lit*

**OPENING SENTENCES**

There is a song in my soul.  
It rises from the very depths demanding expression.  
**I can only hear this song in the very deepest silence.**  
The melody is compassion. The lyrics are service.  
**The rhythm is activity. The harmony is fellowship.**  
The song will end when I become the song.  
**The song, the singer, and the singing.**  
**All become One.**

*Fred Stella. [http://www.c3exchange.org/bulletins/Bulletin03\\_02\\_14.pdf](http://www.c3exchange.org/bulletins/Bulletin03_02_14.pdf)*

**ACT OF AWARENESS**

Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,  
nourish the life of the world in our care:  
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,  
trust for the children tomorrow will bear. *(Shirley Erena Murray/te)*

**HYMN: When Long Before Time**

VU 248

**TIME WITH THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART**

**GATHERING PRAYER**

**Gracious and all mighty God,  
Let this holy season continue to be a time of grace  
for us and all the world.**

**Teach us to number our days aright,  
that we may gain wisdom of heart.  
Turn to us, Lord God,  
and we shall turn to you. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Glory to You, our God, glory to You.  
Creator, Comforter, the Spirit of truth,  
present everywhere and filling all things,  
the treasury of good and giver of life,  
come and dwell in us and cleanse us from every impurity,  
and save our souls, Gracious One.  
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy upon us.  
Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit;  
Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

My friends believe the Good News of Jesus Christ. If you ask  
for forgiveness of your sins, and you truly seek that forgiveness,  
your sins will be forgiven.

**Thanks be to God**

**HYMN Like a Healing Stream**

MV 144

***CENTERING***

***EXPLORING***

## MINUTE FOR MISSION

### SCRIPTURES

**Exodus 17:1–7** Water from the rock.

**Psalm 95** (VU pp. 814–815) Let us shout to the rock of our salvation.

**Romans 5:1–11** Hope in God does not disappoint us.

**John 4:5–42** Jesus and the Samaritan woman.

### SERMON

**HYMN: Come Touch Our Hearts**

MV 12

### OFFERING

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Dear Lord God, Creator: We come before you this morning knowing that it is through you that we find the center of our being. This gives us the strength to be your presence in our lives. In thanks, we bring to you our offerings.**

**Offerings of our time, our money and our talent. Use these our gifts to help with the inbreaking of your Kingdom.**

**AMEN**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**HYMN: May the God of Hope Go with Us**

VU 424

## PARTING WORDS

Let us embrace the wonder of this week with expectation and imagination...

*The Christ Candle is extinguished*

Celebrate all human beauty,  
**caught in colour, form and face.**  
Celebrate our own endeavours,  
**to achieve and to arrive;**  
friendship found in common focus  
**sweeping obstacles aside,**  
celebrate our Maker's wisdom,  
**crafting body, mind and soul.**

*(Shirley Erena Murray/sco)*

### COMMISSIONING

### GO NOW IN PEACE

*(The liturgy for this bulletin came in part from Gathering: The Desperate Preacher's Website and the Rex Hunt Website)*

*Bulletin Cover in memory of*

**Marcel Roberge**

*from The Stanlake Family*