

WELCOME TO GRACE UNITED CHURCH

Rev. Micol Cottrell

March 10, 2019 – First Sunday of Lent

Bold printed text indicates congregational responses.

VU = Voices United Hymnbook MV = More Voices Hymnbook

Head Usher: Joyce Yardley Ushers: Ron & Janet Motz

Reader: Kathryn Dankel

Prayer Station: You are welcomed to light a candle and say a prayer at our prayers station at the front of the church. A prayer sheet is also there for prayer requests.

Reflection Questions:

- When do you find it easy to say yes or no?
- Was there a time when saying yes or no enriched your life?
- Are there times you wish you could say yes or no more easily?

CENTRING

PRELUDE "Christ, Within Us Hidden" MV 162:1

SHARING COMMUNITY *Joys, sorrows, and announcements*

RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

CENTRING STILLNESS

HYMN "Come Touch Our Hearts" MV 12

CALL TO WORSHIP*

As we travel this Lenten pathway,
we journey together, a community of faith.

**As we travel this Way of Jesus,
we journey together, but also alone.**

Practising our faith:

**living Christ's call to love God with all that we are,
to love our neighbours as we love ourselves.**

Practising our faith:

As stewards on the Way.

OPENING PRAYER*

**God of the hungry times, God of the difficult times,
God of all the times of our lives, we need to talk.**

**Sometimes it's difficult to understand
the direction we need to go.**

**With all the choices we have in our lives,
sometimes we're not sure**

when to say "Yes," or when to say "No."

So we ask for your guidance.

We ask for wisdom. We ask for Spirit.

In our worship, in our work, in our choices, in our lives.

May it be so, loving God! Amen.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

GIFT OF MUSIC “Jesus Gives the Bread” *Duck/Klusmeier*

UP FRONT TIME *for the young and young at heart*

Sunday School:

“May God bless you as you stay to hear God’s message.”

Rest of Congregation:

“May God bless you as you go to hear God’s message.”

HYMN “How Firm a Foundation” VU 660

REFLECTING

MINUTE FOR MISSION “Embracing the Spirit”

SCRIPTURE Matthew 4: 1-11

For the Word of God in Scripture, the Word of God among us,
and the Word of God within us, we say:

Thanks be to God.

SERMON Stewardship: How to Say No

HYMN “You Are Holy” MV 45

RESPONDING

SHARING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY “Christ Has No Body Now But Yours” MV 171 *ch*

OFFERTORY PRAYER*

**We do not live on bread alone,
but by your Word, loving God.**

**May that Word fill our hearts and our hands,
all that we have, and all that we are,
that it may be a blessing in your world.**

In Jesus name, we ask it. Amen.

SHARING THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

May God be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God our Creator

It is good to offer our thanks and praise.

How wondrous...We join with all creation praise,

O God, as we sing: “Holy, Holy, Holy” VU 951

**Holy, Holy, Holy, my heart, my heart adores you,
my heart, my heart, sings your praise, you alone are God.**

How wondrous it is to remember...

...We proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ lived, Christ died, Christ was risen, Christ comes again.

O God, may your Spirit... We remember now, O God, all with whom you would have us share this meal, as in silence or spoken word we offer our individual prayers

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

SCATTERING

HYMN "God Be With You" VU 422

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BLESSING "Take Up His Song of Hope" VU 213

POSTLUDE

**Liturgy and sermon inspiration from "Called to Be the Church Congregational Giving Program-Loving Our Neighbours. United Church of Canada, 2019. Used with permission.*

GRACE-AT-A-GLANCE

Monday, March 11

Bible Study, 3 pm
Soccer, 4:30 – 6pm
Al-Anon, 8pm

Tuesday, March 12

Crafts+, 10am
TOPS, 10am
Bridge+, 1pm
LOMS Cooking, 1pm
Guides & Brownies, 6:30pm
AA Meeting, 8pm

Wednesday, March 13

Light on Main Street, 11:30am
Building Emotional Resources,
10am – 1pm
Lenten Lunch,
St. Matthew's, 12 pm
Cubs & Scouts, 6:30pm

Thursday, March 14

Thames Valley Children's
Centre, 9:30 am – 12 pm
Hanover Shufflers, 1pm
Knitting Circle, 1:30pm
Soccer, 4:30 – 6pm
Poundwatchers, 6:30pm
Beavers, 6:30pm

Sunday, March 17

Second Sunday of Lent
St. Patrick's Day