

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH

March 15, 2020



"The Teaching: Risking Challenge"

Week Three of Lent



*Growing and Deepening our Spiritual Lives in an
Affirming and Inclusive Community*

Welcome to St. David's United Church

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Sunday, March 15, 2020

Rev Peggy McDonagh presiding with the people of St. David's

We gather as a Christ-Infused Community

Prelude

Greeting and Announcements

Lighting the third Lenten Candle

We light the third Lenten candle to shine a light on ourselves in the story
of the passion of Jesus.

**May this light illumine our path as we walk alongside Jesus
and others who walked with him, that together we may experience
expanded insight and transformation along the way.**

**Entering the Story
Crossing the Threshold**

Leader: We continue our journey through Lent as we... .

[Soloist sings]

Enter

Enter the story

Enter the place you belong

Not just looking on

For this is *your* story

Enter the story

[Choir repeats]

Enter

Come enter the story

Enter the place you belong

Not just looking on

For this is *your* story

Enter the story

Leader: The last days of his life, Jesus doesn't "lay low"... .

[Soloist, Choir and Congregation Sing]

Enter

**Enter the passion
Enter the place we belong
Not just looking on
For this is *our* passion
Enter the passion**

(People stand as the song is repeated)

Enter

**Enter the passion
Enter the place we belong
Not just looking on
For this is *our* passion
Enter the passion
Enter the story...
Enter the passion...
Enter his passion.**

Prayer of Confession

We come into prayer together

People: We come here to encounter the teachings of Jesus.

**Many wanted to destroy him for these teachings,
and sometimes we too find that his words challenge us,
calling us to more than we think we can be or do.**

Forgive us, O God.

**Let us be shaped into a new people,
made in the mold of justice,
not the stamp of Caesar's coin.**

**God of Love, you enter our story again and again.
May we have the courage to enter fully into the story
of your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

Opening Responsive Hymn

Jesus, United by Your Grace vs. 1, & 2
VU #591 (Tune VU #266)

[The people remain standing]

Assurance of Pardon and Entering the Passion of Jesus

Getting Perspective

Telling the Story

Hymn

I Love to Tell the Story vs. 1 VU #343
I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

An echo-prayer.

Holy Creator

We will dare to join the journey.

[Hand to heart]

We will walk your loving way.

[Walk in place]

We will live your sacred story,

[Hold hands like opening a book]

Through the things we do and say.

*[Hands open and outstretched on "do." Hand cupped to sides of mouth
on "say."]*

Amen.

[Praying hands]

Time with the Gospel:

Matthew 22:15-22; 34-40

(Jesus teaching is tested)

Prayer after Reading

Loving God,

Help us live your story,

By daring to celebrate Jesus

Wherever we are.

Hosanna. Amen.

Listening to the Story

Matthew 4:1-11
(*Jesus is tested again*)

Anthem

Open Thou Mine Eyes

Dwelling in the Story - Tableau

(A kind of “midrash” [teaching] based on the artwork)

[Soloist and Choir sings]

Enter

Enter the story

Enter the place you belong

Not just looking on

For this is *your* story

Enter the story

[Congregation join in]

Enter

Enter the passion

Enter the place we belong

Not just looking on

For this is *our* passion

Enter the passion

Enter the story...

Enter the passion...

Enter his passion.

Reflection

Guest Speaker: Kelly Ernst, Calgary's Rainbow Railroad Station

Hymn

Christ of Compassion

(Tune: VU #307) (Words by Rev. Peggy McDonagh)

Christ of compassion, Christ of all giving,

Our hearts are full of your kindness and care.

Love's living presence, Spirit of Sharing,

Nourish and strengthen the faith that we bear.

Love for people struggling and hurting,

gently we open a place in our heart.

Hope for the lost ones, fearful and lonely,

spirits renewed through the care we impart.

Traveling companions, friends on the journey,
Reaching to others who seek a safe place.
Spreading our love to people who needs us,
touching their living, with hope and with grace.

The Body of Christ Prays

Sung entrance into prayer

Love us into Fullness vs. 1 & 3 MV #81

**Love us into fullness, touch us with your grace;
Jesus, in your mercy, draw us to your face.**

**Love us into fullness, and we will be strong;
Jesus, walk beside us, fill our hearts with song.**

We remember today the lives of those who are oppressed . . .

The Lord's Prayer

Sung closure of prayer

Love us into Fullness vs. 3 MV #81

**Love us into fullness, and we will be strong;
Jesus, walk beside us, fill our hearts with song.**

A Time of Offering Ourselves

Offertory

Reception of Offering and Dedication Prayer

"This is my creative spirit in the world, this is my offering.
May you see the things you do, no matter how small or mundane,
as the way that you contribute goodness to the world,
creating more life, more joy, more love."

Praise be to God, the Creator of all that is!

Entering the World's Story

Hymn

Love is the Touch vs. 1-3 MV #89 (Tune VU #624)

Love is the touch of intangible joy.
Love is the force that no fear can destroy.
Love is the goodness we gladly applaud.
God is where love is, for love is of God

Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;
Love is the hope that can make us rejoice;
Love is the cure for the frightened and flawed;
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;
Love is the will to be whole once again;
Love is the trust of a friend on the road;
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Benediction

Postlude

Intermezzo Founded Upon an Irish Air - C.V. Stanford

THANKS TO THOSE ASSISTING WITH OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Greeters.....	March Sacred Service Team
Ushers.....	March Sacred Service Team
Projection.....	PSALT Team
Readers.....	Tyson and Taylor Carroll
Music.....	Sanctuary Choir
Accompanist.....	Garrett Krause

Growing and Deepening our Spiritual Lives through Worship & Nurture

March 22: Lent Four

The First Dinner: Risking Rejection

Besides the Last Supper, Holy Week contains another important story that happens at dinner. Earlier in the week, Jesus and his followers gather for a meal, and a woman shows up unexpectedly to anoint Jesus in an extravagant show of devotion. To say she caused quite a “stir” might be understating it a bit. We imagine ourselves in the room and we see the looks of judgment and even outrage on the faces around us.

Are we ourselves moved by her generosity and outpouring of emotion? Or are we uncomfortable as Jesus refers to his own death? Does our complaining or anger really serve to hide our own fear? Jesus invites us to tell this story “in remembrance of her.” What uncomfortable stories are we called to tell in our time?