

Worship Services at SDUC: January 2020 to March 22, 2020

MARCH 22, 2020 AND ONWARD - SCROLL TO THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE TO FIND THE SCRIPT FOR SUNDAY'S SERVICE or click on the subpage to the left and go directly to the file attachment:

Hi all, presently a few of us are working on getting St. David's into the 21st century so we can live- stream. I am not sure how long this will take.

In the meantime, I invite you to continue the journey through Lent that we began four weeks ago - "Entering the Passion of Jesus." Attached is the script of the entire worship experience along with the take home page for continued engagement of the story during the week. This week would have been communion, so I've included the communion words. Have a candle ready to light.

On Sunday prepare your worship space, you might be able to be with a few others on this worship journey. Prepare your communion elements, bread/crackers and juice or wine. If there is more than one person in attendance people can take parts. If there are children, they too can take part.

In this self isolating time, I invite you to engage in this worship intentionally some time on Sunday, even if it is to simply sit and read the script and reflect on it. The Hebrew Text for this week happens to be Psalm 23 that seems entirely appropriate for life as it is now. I have offered a few thoughts in the Reflection part for you to think about as you put yourself in the story.

Imagine yourself sitting in the sanctuary surrounded by your St. David's friends, see the communion table with the Lenten candles and frames, and communion elements. See the various pictures on the walls of the stories from past weeks.

During the reflection time, you can use the "take home" page as a guide for quiet meditation on the story. Enjoy the journey, may it be a meaningful experience for you. Be kind, be safe, be hopeful, Peace be with you, Rev. Peggy McDonagh
St. David's United Church 403 284-2276 Ext. 104
"The world is full of nice people. If you can't find one, be one."

MARCH 15, 2020

With the Sanctuary Choir, Brent on the organ and directing, Garrett on the piano, the worship tableau team in costume, Rev. Peggy and Rev. Debbie leading, the McIntosh Sacred Service team at task, PSALT in the balcony and Kerry and Diane set to lead the children, we launched into the Third Sunday of Lent Service. The theme was 'The Teaching: Risking Challenge.'

We are becoming familiar with the singing of our Lenten song and an old favourite, "I Love to Tell the Story," and, of course, we always look forward to having guest speakers lead us through Reflection. This morning, we welcomed Kelly Ernst as our guest speaker from Calgary's Rainbow Railroad Station. rainbow railroad station calgary The text for his Reflection can be found by clicking onto SERMONS on the home page. Scroll to the bottom of this page to read the Worship Guide for March 15, 2020.

MARCH 8, 2020

Once again, Ruth Cross led us through the singing of our
Lenten Song,

Enter

Enter the Passion

Enter the Place we belong

Not just looking on

For this is our Passion

Enter the Passion

This morning, the tableau that awaited us was a wooden table with baskets of merchandise and buyers and sellers participating in the market in the Temple. We were surprised to hear that the temple grounds were the size of 12 soccer fields and that the market place segment was the Gentile area where money was exchanged and animals for sacrifice were purchased by the many people who were in Jerusalem preparing to celebrate the Passover. From Mark 11: 15-17 and Isaiah 56:7 we read:

"15 On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, 16 and would not allow

anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts.
17 And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'[a]? But you have made it 'a den of robbers.'[b]"

"these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations."

... and it was into these images we were asked to enter as we heard the story told once again in word and song. Check out SERMONS above for the text of Rev. Peggy's Reflection and the file attachment below for the Worship Guide.

MARCH 1, 2020

"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." This is what the congregation Sunday morning responded to the lighting of the first Lenten candle as we were invited to "Enter into the Passion of Jesus."

We were introduced to a song by soloist, Ruth Cross, that we will be singing as we move through this important season in our church year. The chancel clothes and candles reflect the colour of the season - deep purple and our banner states the theme of our services during Lent -- "Entering the Passion of Jesus."

Rev. Peggy, Rev. Debbie, Pat Nyberg, Margie Oakander, Nancy Erickson, Bill Way and Hugo Goasdoue-Wallace were our guides this morning as we joined into the parade of followers that walked behind and beside Jesus as he entered Jerusalem for the Passover celebration. Pat presented a framed image of the crowd that participated in the drama so many years ago. With empty frames decorating the communion table, we can picture ourselves among the followers and each Sunday, we will be given an insert for self-reflection as we make our way through the week. The invitation for Lent 1 is to place "ourselves" in the picture that is uploaded for you on this page and on the SERMON page.

FEBRUARY 23, 2020

Using Acts 4: 32-35, Rev. Peggy led us through the importance of "Gratitude" in living our "Wonder-Full Life" -- the fourth in her series inspired by the 1946 movie, "It's a Wonderful Life."

32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. 33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all 34 that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales 35 and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

The congregation was given the opportunity to engage in some small group conversation about gratitude in our lives.

The questions to guide conversation were: "How do I experience gratitude? How do I express gratitude?" and suddenly there was a buzz throughout the sanctuary as everyone shared their ideas.

As part of her series, Rev. Peggy has invited members of the congregation to offer their witness: Sheryl Schoenthaler followed Bill Way and Tom Frank in sharing their thoughts during the series.

The Angel Voices' Ministry of Song included the anthem Cantate Domino- Jens Klimek and Keep Yo' Lamps - Traditional spiritual. Special thank you to the February Sacred Service for their valuable service during the past month.

FEBRUARY 16, 2020

Today, we considered the value of "Generosity" as it was introduced by Ruth Cross reading from 1 Timothy 6:17-19:

17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

The service today was filled with celebration. Behind the scenes lots of people had been preparing to mark Rev. Peggy's 60th with joy and elation and their work paid off first

hand as her reflection entitled "Generosity: The Heart's True Wealth" reminded us of the value of sharing. (See the Worksheet below and ask yourself the questions asked.) Join with us by reading the Reflection, posted under SERMONS on the Home page, and scrolling below to the file attachments for the Worship Folder and the Insert. Happy birthday, Rev. Peggy!!

FEBRUARY 9, 2020

As we moved into the second of the series entitled "It's a Wonderful Life," today's service focussed on "Treasures of the Heart." The scripture selected was from Matthew 6: 19-24:

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Scroll down on this page to read the Worship Folder and the Take Home Page for Series 2.

Ministry of Music this morning was offered this morning by the Chamber Choir.

The Evening Compline Service for February was held on Sunday evening with Eric Nyland performing prior to the compline service. Rev. Peggy presided with the Men's Ensemble with Anthony Edmunds, cantor, singing from the balcony. This marks the end of the Evening Compline Services for the 2019-2020 season. They will commence again in the fall.

FEBRUARY 2, 2020

Quote from “It’s a Wonderful Life”:

“You've been given a great gift, George: a chance to see what the world would be like without you. ... Strange, isn't it? Each man's life touches so many other lives, and when he isn't around, he leaves an awful hole, doesn't he?” —The angel Clarence Odbody

George Bailey gets a wonderful gift of seeing what the world would have been like without him in it. We live an “incarnational” faith – the belief that, like Jesus, our faith is not just an idea, but it gets lived out in our actions in the world. This week we integrate money and meaning by looking in at the courageous vision for our presence and impact in the world. This is the bedrock for how we “spend” our assets–time, energy, and money–so that we approach the life we have left with attentiveness and intentionality to make it a “wonder-full” life.

This morning, Rev. Peggy launched a new worship series, celebrating our "Wonder-Full Life." The goal is that we "develop spiritual practices that will feed that part of ourselves that is oriented toward serenity, harmony, truth, compassion, gratitude, love and joy... "Today's theme challenged us to examine the role of money in our lives. "Over the next four weeks... we will gain a fresh perspective on how money can be a valued and important part of our spiritual journey that can offer more depth of meaning, healing, wholeness and a whole new 'outlook' on what constitutes a wonderful life."

Check file attachments below for Feb. 2, 2020 Worship Folder and Week One Task Sheet.

JANUARY 26, 2019

Throughout the season after Epiphany, we have explored the many ways we can "Arise and Shine" not only to make our individual lives more meaningful but to shed the Divine lights of hope and love on the challenges facing humanity and creation. This morning, January 26, 2020, we had Rev. Debbie Stockdale and Rev. Dr. Wayne Holst (along with Darlene Heynen, Cheryl Campbell and Eldon Godfrey) guiding us through the shared experiences of ACTS (Adult Spiritual Development Ministry) Monday Night Book Study from Fall, 2019. 35 St. Davidians and friends met to discuss the Barbara Brown Taylor book, "Holy Envy" over a 10 week period. Following the author's experience, our group visited Baitun Nur Mosque, Avatamsaka Monastery and hosted Usha Sharma, from the Hindu Community.

JANUARY 19, 2019

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Diane, Michael Trew and friends presided over the worship service, January 19, 2020. The Seed of Meditation came from Michael Card from his book "The Walk: The Life-changing Journey of Two Friends."

"Behind every specific call, whether it is to teach or preach or write or encourage or comfort, there is a deeper call to give ourselves away."

In telling his personal spiritual journey, Michael showed us how the light has shone in his life as through an open door. The gathering prayer, used in their liturgy, offered the heart of their message:

"Here we are, co-creating God. We have heard your calling...

You sometimes present us with different plans. Open us to the idea that you might have something in store for us that we have not previously been able to imagine. Draw us into your surprises. Give us the courage to get out of our own mold and follow your direction to wherever it is you call us. Amen."

On this Third Sunday after Epiphany, we continued to focus on the theme of light in our lives.

JANUARY 12, 2019

Rev. Peggy concluded her Reflection ("Arising and Shining in the New Year" - See Sermons on Home Page for the text of the Reflection) with the quote by Rev. Carolyn Baskin-Bell of LA, "Arise and shine! Illuminate the light that influences sadness to joy, hate to love, confusion to peace and doubt to hope. Arise, and illuminate the light that overpowers darkness. Let our lights shine, illumine intentionally to influence one another to walk in the beautiful light of God!"

JANUARY 5, 2019

On this FIRST Epiphany Sunday, Rev. Peggy and reader, Eldon Godfrey, reflected on The Divine Light - Our Spiritual GPS, drawing upon Matthew 2: 9-12 and Isaiah 60: 1-3 for grounding. The Sanctuary Choir added their ministry of song with their anthem, Kings of Orient (J.H. Hopkins/arr. David Willcocks).