

## **SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley  
(Hugh S. Livingston Jr.)

### **WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**  
*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters**  
Louise Proctor-Maio

**INTROIT** Now Quit Your Care  
(Percy Dearmer, French Carol harm. Martin Fallas Shaw)

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Lent calls us to journey, this and every day,  
following Jesus wherever he leads.

**Lent calls us to journey:  
to the place where God covenants with us,  
to receive the new names we are given.**

Lent calls us to worship together,  
to tell future generations the good news.

**Lent calls us to practice justice,  
to bring God's hope to all people.**

Lent calls us to faithful living,  
to trust the One who gives us life.

**Lent calls each of us to take up your cross,  
to trust the One who bears it with us.**

Lent calls us to journey with God.

**Let us worship God, who walks with us,  
this day and every day.**

**\*HYMN** Morning Has Broken *insert p 7*

## **LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY**

Holly Williamson, Debra Hilliard, Nancy Kerswill

On this second Sunday of Lent, we remember that God  
promised to bless the whole world through Abraham and  
Sarah. We come in worship, seeking the fullness of that  
blessing through Jesus.

*One purple candle is extinguished.*

*Let us pray...*

**God of our longing, we give thanks for stories that  
encourage us to take the risks that life requires, so that  
the blessings of joy and creativity might be nourished  
and grow freely among us. Amen.**

**SUNG RESPONSE** Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery  
*VU 121*

**In our call to be a blessing,  
may we be a blessing true;  
may we live and die confessing  
Christ as Lord of all we do,  
Christ as Lord of all we do.**

## **FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**SCRIPTURE** Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
(Covenant between Abraham, Sarah and God.) Bill Newman

**ANTHEM** Agnus Dei (Jason McCoy) The Aurora Choralis

**GOSPEL** Mark 8:27-38 *p. 43-44 Pew Bible NT*  
(Those who lose their life for the gospel will save it.)

*Come to the quiet...a time for reflection*

## **SERMON** Paths of Totality

**\*HYMN** I Have Called You by Your Name  
(Damon/Fines) *MV 161*

I have called you by your name, you are mine;  
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine. I will not  
abandon you; all my promises are true. You are gifted,  
called and chosen; you are mine.

I will help you learn my name as you go; read it written  
in my people, help them grow. Pour the water in my name,  
speak the word your soul can claim, offer Jesus' body  
given long ago.

I know you will need my touch as you go; feel it pulsing  
in creation's ebb and flow. Like the woman reaching out,  
choosing faith in spite of doubt, hold the hem of Jesus'  
robe, then let it go.

I have given you a name, it is mine; I have given you my  
Spirit as a sign. With my wonder in your soul, make my  
wounded children whole; go and tell my precious people  
they are mine.

## **SHARING GOD'S LOVE**

### **OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY** Nocturne (Joel Raney)  
Faith-a-Peal Handbell Ensemble

**\*DEDICATION** Christ Has No Body Now but Yours  
*MV 171* **Christ has no body now but yours,  
no hands but yours. Here on this earth,  
yours is the work, to serve with the  
joy of compassion.**

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER & Prayer Shawl Blessing**

**PRAYER PRELUDE** Let My Spirit Always Sing *MV 83*

**Let my spirit always sing, to your Spirit answering,  
through the silence, through the pain know my hope  
is not in vain, like a feather on your breath  
trust your love, through life and death.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER**

*VU p.910*

**\*HYMN** Will You Come and Follow Me *insert p 8*

**\*COMMISSIONING**

May the God whose heart  
is torn by love,  
**bless us and keep us.**  
May the Christ whose heart  
is greater than death,  
**bless us and keep us.**  
May the Spirit whose heart  
is filled with life,  
**bless us and keep us,  
now and always.**

**SUNG BLESSING** May the Love of the Lord *MV 218*

**May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul.  
May God's love dwell in you, throughout every day.  
May God's countenance shine upon you and be  
gracious to you. May God's Spirit be upon you  
as you leave this place.**

**POSTLUDE** Heeding the Call (*Tom Birchwood*)



**MISSION AND SERVICE**

**Lessons of Racism Learned When Young**

*The following is an excerpt from a [blog](#) written by Adele Halliday. Your [Mission and Service](#) gifts support anti-racism programs and initiatives like the ones Halliday develops as the United Church's Anti-Racism and Equity Lead to help all of us be in deeper, more equitable relationships with one another.*

The name calling started when she was about three years old. They were racial slurs, and names, and taunts. My child, my own flesh and blood, was being ostracized for having Black skin. The people slinging the insults? Other children on the playground.... She may not have necessarily always understood the particular terms that they used, but she knew that they were related to her Blackness and her racial identity. And this deeply wounded her tender heart....

Despite all of our intentional modelling, teaching, and proactive actions, our child is still already developing internalized racism and inferior notions of herself.

The children who were taunting her were offering explicit and overt notions of racism, but they were children! They had not even started primary school! And yet, the children had already learned behaviour (at home, or elsewhere in society) that Whiteness is superior. And, they had the audacity to vocalize that to an innocent little child....

This is in part why I am so deeply committed to dismantling racism in all its forms—racism is damaging and destructive for all people in society. It reinforces negative notions for people of colour. I live it in a particular way because of my own racial identity, as a Black person who has lived with racial injustice my entire life.

The systemic nature of racism is something that cannot be ignored.... This effort to overcome racism is a continuous effort. And I am committed to this work for the long haul. I hope that you will be too.



*The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.*



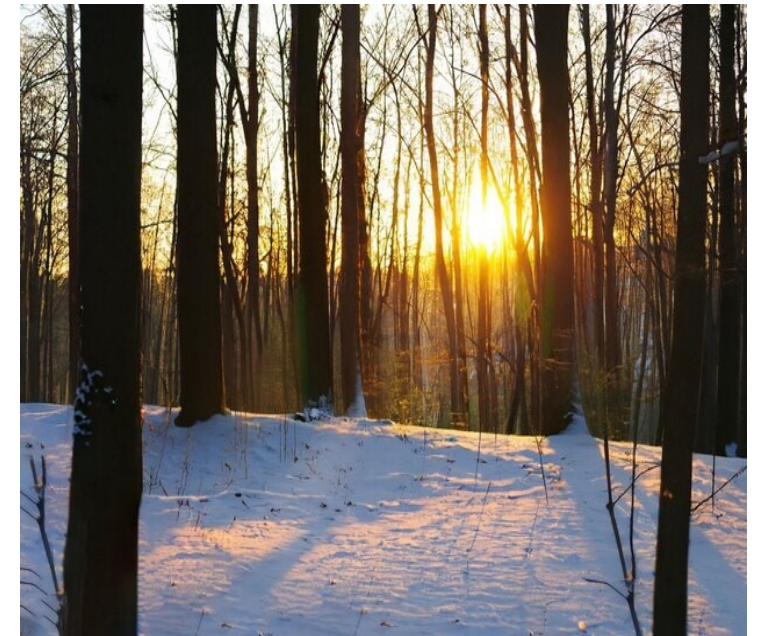
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**Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar  
Music Coordinator—Margaret Heney**



***LENT 2***  
***Honouring Black History Month***  
**February 25, 2024**  
**11:00 AM**

*“The connections we make in the course of a life –  
maybe that’s what heaven is.”*

*Fred Rogers*

### **Morning Has Broken**

Morning has broken like the first morning, blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from  
the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where God's feet  
pass.

Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning, God's recreation of the new day!

### **Will you Come and Follow Me**

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and  
never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare? Will you  
let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name? Will you set the prisoners free and nev-  
er be the same? Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen, and admit to what  
I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name? Will you quell the fear inside and  
never be the same? Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Christ, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same. In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus  
I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

