***We acknowledge these lands upon which we worship as the ancestral, cultural, traditional and unceded lands***

***of the Musqueam***, *Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.*

**West Point Grey United Church**

**Vancouver, BC**

The theme for Lent this year is **‘Catch The Light’**. 2,000 years ago, Jesus was a spark that blazed in the midst of shadowed times of oppression and poverty. Through his compassion, his teachings, and his love – he lit a fire in people, encouraging them to ‘let their love shine’ through their generosity, justice, and caring – and so spread the light of God’s love to everyone. Even one candle shining can dispel the darkness. And when we join together, the light grows even brighter – dispelling the gloom of racism, fear, injustice and hatred. Each week during Lent, you will see the light growing. The Worship Committee would like to invite you to let your light shine – illumining places in our everyday lives where we see love, compassion, generosity, encouragement, and support. Each Sunday, we will shine the light on one area, and in the week prior, ask you to reflect on the upcoming word. Then on Sunday, you are invited to bring something that symbolizes that word for you. There will be a place on the Communion table for you to offer your symbol, your story, your art, your poem, your reflection.

The purpose is to walk through Lent with intention. To shine our lights when we can – and also to watch for and notice where the light of God’s love is revealed by the actions and words of others.

♦ Please stand where indicated, as you are able & comfortable

Congregational responses are in **bold**

**Gathering For Worship**

**Second Sunday In Lent - A**

**March 12th, 2017**

♪ **Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements / Passing The Peace**

**Silence, As We Prepare Our Hearts For Worship**

***In this sacred space, in this moment of silence,***

***leave your daily concerns aside.***

***For here we recall the stories of faith,***

***here we see the extraordinary in the ordinary,***

***here we hear good news, and remember whose we are.***

*(gathering words will be followed by a time of silence,*

*ending with the chiming of the singing bowl)*

**Lent: Catch The Light**

**Focus: ‘Faith And Trust In God’**

♪ **Lenten Introit:** ‘Catch The Light’ *Words and music: Bruce Harding*

Catch the light, catch the light: God’s love growing in you and me.

Catch the light, catch the light: God’s love growing in you and me.

God’s love growing, God’s love growing,

God’s love growing: feel it growing in you and me!

Catch the light, catch the light: God’s love growing in you and me.

Catch the light, catch the light: God’s love growing in you and me.



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**Words of Gathering**: *(in the Celtic style)*

As we come to worship, we lay at the feet of God

the faces we have seen;

the voices we have heard;

the words we have spoken;

the hands we have touched;

the service we have given;

the joys we have shared;

the sorrows we have held.

In this time, in this place, we lay them at the feet of the Holy,

and in doing so, lay our hearts at rest.

**♦**♪ **Hymn:** ‘This Day God Gives Me’ (4) ***VU 410***

*(attributed to St. Patrick ca. 370-460 CE)*

**Prayer of Gathering and Confession*:*** *(Iona Community)*

In You, gracious God, the widowed find a carer; the orphaned

find a parent; the fearful find a friend.

**In You, the wounded find a healer; the penitent find**

**a pardoner, the burdened find a counsellor.**

In You, the miserly find a beggar; the despondent find a

laughter-maker; the legalists find a rule-breaker.

**In You, Jesus Christ, we meet our Maker, and our match.**

And if some need to say, 'Help me';

**and if some need to say, 'Save me';**

And if some need to say, 'Hold me';

**and if some need to say, 'Forgive me';**

then let these be said now in confidence by us ….. *(silence)*

♪ Lord’s Prayer *(sung)*  ***VU 959***

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name;*

*Your kingdom come, Your will be done*

*on earth as in heaven.*

*Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins,*

*as we forgive those who sin against us.*

*Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil;*

*for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours,*

*now and forever.*

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**♦**  **Sharing The Peace:**

L: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

*(As we are in flu season, you are invited to use this opportunity*

*to greet your neighbour in an alternate way to shaking hands. Here are some suggestions:*

*- the First Nations greeting ‘All My Relations’*

*- ‘Namaste’ (hands together with bow)*

*- saying ‘peace be with you’ in another language*

*- a simple nod with a verbal greeting*

**Hosting The Word**

*Whether you take what is written in the Bible*

*as fact, metaphor, myth or story – listen to these words*

*for the meaning they hold for you today.*

♪ **Prayer for Illumination: *MV # 176***

Three things I promise, Holy God,

in age and youth, in life and death:

to bless Your name, and cling to Christ,

and listen for the Spirit's breath.

**Congregational Reading**: Psalm 121 (KJV) *together*

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved:

he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.

The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.

The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in

from this time forth, and even for evermore.  *0ver …*

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♪ **Sung Response**: ***VU 842***

***From every evil shall God keep thy soul, from every sin;***

***Jehovah shall preserve thy going out, thy coming in.***

***Above thee watching, God whom we adore***

***shall keep thee henceforth – yea, forevermore.***

# **Scripture:** Genesis 12: 1-4a ‘Abram is called’

***May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder,***

***as we ponder the meaning of these words for our lives.***

**Hosting The Word:** ‘At The Crossroads’

♪ **Sung Response**: ***MV 85***

*Take, O take me as I am, summon out what I shall be;*

*Set Your seal upon my heart, and live in me.*



**Strengthened For The Journey**

♪ **Offertory:**

**♦**♪ **Presentation of Our Gifts:** (x2) ***MV 21***

Open our heart, open our minds;

Open our lives to You, O loving God. *repeat*

**Offertory Prayer**: *(together)*

Thank You, God, for the inspiration of Abraham and Sarah,

who listened for Your voice and answered Your call - and in doing so, blessed the world. May we, too, answer Your call

to be blessings in the world, sharing the offering of our hearts

and hands so that the light of Your love may be known. Amen

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**Prayers of Concern & Celebration**

**♦**♪ **Hymn**: ‘Be Thou My Vision’ *(verses 1, 2 & 4)* ***VU 642***

*(Words: Irish 8th Cent / Music: Irish Traditional Melody)*

**♦ Going Forth:** *‘An Irish Blessing’*

♪ **Postlude**

Welcome to West Point Grey United Church

***Welcome as we continue our Lenten journey. May you find here a warm community of Christian friends, a place of encounter with the Sacred, and encouragement for the way of faith. In the entry to the church, you will find copies of the worship service bulletin – in regular and large print, as well as large-print hymns. There are also copies of the scripture in Korean and Chinese and the sermon translated into Mandarin. Please feel at home, and among friends. Children are invited to go out with Debra Dawes for JAM (Jesus and Me children’s program) following the passing of the peace. A changing table for infants can be found in the women’s washroom. Following worship, you are invited to stay for lunch in the church hall. After lunch, we will have our Annual Meeting of the congregation.***

***Minister: Rev. Valerie Taylor***

***Director of Music: Eileen Padgett***

***Office Administrator: Janis Terrien***

***Children & Youth: Lauren Brown / Debra Dawes***

***Intercultural: Linda Liang***

***Projectionist: Norm Henderson***