

**Online Joint Worship for the Mid Fraser Cluster
Aldergrove, Gladwin Heights, St. Andrews
and Trinity Memorial United Churches**

**The First Sunday of Lent
February 21st, 2021**

Thank you for Connecting for Worship
Today's Leadership includes
Preacher: The Rev. Tracy Fairfield
Presiding: The Rev. Bill Booth & The Rev. Tim Bowman
Musician: Donna Poncelet
Song Leader: Deborah Handley
Technical Support: Jeremy Wright

People are invited to share their prayers in the chat during the worship service.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**Words of Welcome, Announcements from Each Congregation and
Land Acknowledgement Bill**

Lighting the Rainbow Candles Tim

Lighting the Christ Candle Tracy

(the candle is lit)

The Light of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Sung Response:

VU 121 - "Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery" [General verse and verse 1 for Lent]

*Light of life beyond conceiving,
mighty Spirit of our Lord, give new strength to our believing,
give us faith to live your word, give us faith to live your word.*

*From the dawning of creation, you have loved as your own;
stay with us through all temptation,
make us turn to you alone, make us turn to you alone.*

Call to Worship: Bill

After the flood, God's tears mingled with ours and God choked, "Never again."
God promised, "Never again,"
and from light and the mist of those mingled tears, God made a rainbow.
God made a bow in the sky to draw us out beyond our sorrow
and remember the promise of all we do not notice:
the holy ephemerals of our common humanity and the God-given colours of love.

**We come with love and with tears.
Let us worship God.**

Written by Sandra L. Stickney. Gathering, Lent/Easter 2021. Adapted, and used with permission.

Opening Prayer: Tim

God of covenant hope, You made a promise to your people and with all living things: a promise of presence instead of destruction.
When your people drew near to you, you drew near to them and your Spirit called and rested on Jesus.
Come to us; settle upon us; raise us up and call us out.
Keep us near to you and help us to live into your promise for all the world.

Hymn: VU 559 - "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"

*Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace.
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.*

*Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God.
came to rescue me from danger, precious presence, precious blood.*

*O, to grace how great a debt or daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:
here's my heart, O, take and seal it, seal it for your very own.*

Time with our Children: Bill

Hymn: VU 229 - "God of the Sparrow" v 3,6

*God of the rainbow God of the cross God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace, How does the creature say Thanks*

*God of the ages God near at hand God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy, How do your children say Home*

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

We invite the children and their leaders into breakout rooms

Scripture Readings:

Genesis 9:8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "Signs of Promise" Tracy

Hymn: VU 299 "Teach Me, God to Wonder"

*Teach me, God, to wonder, teach me, God, to see;
let your world of beauty capture me.*

***R) Praise to you be given, love for you be lived,
life be celebrated, joy you give.***

*Let me, God, be open, let me loving be;
let your world of people speak to me. R)*

*Let me, God, be ready, let me be awake,
in your world of loving my place take. R)*

*Teach me, God, to know you, hear you when you speak,
see you in my neighbour when we meet. R)*

WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND ACTION

Prayers of the People and all the World: Tim

Acknowledging Our Gifts for the Work of God & Prayer of Dedication: Bill

We bring our offerings for God's work among us in many ways:
cash and cheques mailed or dropped off;
Pre-Authorized Remittance and our online donations;
our time and our work, for God's work among us.

Doxology: VU 538 - "For the Gift of Creation"

*For the gift of creation, the gift of your love, and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.*

May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

Prayer of Dedication: Bill

As Jesus offered himself for baptism, so we offer ourselves.
As your Spirit settled on Jesus, settle upon these gifts.
Use them; use us; call us to your Way,
to the Cross and beyond.

Service of the Table

Invitation to the Table **Bill**

Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body,
for we all partake of the one bread.

In Christ, God breaks down the walls
that make us strangers to ourselves, and divide us from one another.

We are the body of Christ.

At this table we bear witness to our faith.

**At this table, God brings wholeness out of brokenness,
and healing to our world.**

Let us break bread together.

I Corinthians 10:17

The Spirit of the Lord is among us!

The poor hear Good News!

The captives are released!

The blind see! The oppressed go free!

These are the ways of God's justice! These are the signs of God's jubilee!

Luke 4:18

Tim

Holy God of Ancient Covenant. We bring to You praise and glory. You were there to call forth life in all its glorious diversity and You watched over Creation as humanity danced in your blessing. You made a covenant with Abraham of family relationship. You made a covenant with Noah, marked with the rainbow, to prevent the destruction Creation.

When your human children drifted from the covenant of relationship You sent prophets to call them back into the mercy of your Love. And in the fullness of time you sent Jesus who like those prophets called the people back in relationship with You. Through his good news proclamation, a home was made for all people, even for us so many years later.

Today your children have broken the covenant to protect Creation. "Creation groans waiting for the salvation of the children of God." Yet even now prophetic voices arise to call us to work for the healing of Creation.

You refuse to give up on your children. For this Grace our hearts full of hope and we praise You and sing with your people of all times:

Sanctus: "Holy Holy, Holy" MV 203

O holy, holy holy God, God of times and space.

All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.

Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise.

And blessed is the One who comes and bears you name always!

Tracy

On the last night he spent with his friends, Jesus took an age-old tradition of his people and transformed it into something new. He took bread, staple food of his land, blessed and broke it, and gave it to those around him saying,

"Take, eat, this is my body, broken for you.

Whenever you do this, remember me."

After supper he took a cup of wine, common drink of his people, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you, this is the cup of the new covenant.

Each time you do this, remember me."

By remembering Jesus in this way now, we claim our common heritage as we proclaim the mystery of faith: By what we do here, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Memorial Acclamation MV 204

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

At this time, we also remember all those who need your Grace and Healing **Bill**

Chat Prayers are shared.

Bill

Send, O Covenant God, your Holy Spirit

upon us and what we do here, that we and these gifts, empowered by your Spirit, may become signs of peace and hope for one another and for all peoples of the earth. Amen

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours everywhere, now and forever.

Great Amen MV 205

Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!

Amen, amen, O Holy One, Hosanna and Amen!

The Lord's Prayer (Recite 921)

Bread for the Journey: Tim - Bill Break Bread

The Cup of the New Covenant we make with God. Tim & Bill Pour cup

Pray for after Communion. Tracy

**For the bread we have eaten, for the wine we have tasted,
for the life we have received, we thank you God.**

Grant that what we have done and have been given here, may so put its mark on us, that it may remain always in our hearts.

**Grant that we may grow in Christian love and understanding,
and that ours may be lives of faithful action, in Christ's name. Amen.**

Hymn: VU 699 - "Live into Hope"

*Live into hope of captives freed, of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God's own jubilee!*

*Live into hope the blind shall see with insight and with clarity,
removing shades of pride and fear, a vision of our God brought near.*

*Live into hope of liberty, the right to speak, the right to be,
the right to have one's daily bread to hear God's word and thus be fed.*

*Live into hope of captives freed from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace.*

Blessing and Sending Forth: Tracy

Sung Response: VU 318 - "Christ Be With Me"

*Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me.*

*Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.*

Postlude