

Online Joint Worship for the Mid Fraser Cluster
Aldergrove, Gladwin Heights, St. Andrew's
and Trinity Memorial United Churches

The Fifth Sunday of Lent
March 21st, 2021

Thank you for Connecting for Worship

Today's Leadership includes

Preacher: The Rev. Tim Bowman

Presiding: The Rev. Bill Booth

The Rev. Tim Bowman

Musician: Jacob Greenan

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**

Lighting the Rainbow Candles

Lighting the Christ Candle Bill

Although we may choose the shadows to hide our Loving God calls us into the light.
We light this Candle in hope of the promise of the Spirit's presence with us this day.

(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 Lenten & 5th Sunday]

*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.*

*God of all our fear and sorrow, God who lives beyond our death;
Hold us close through each tomorrow,
Love as near as every breath, Love as near as every breath,*

Call to Worship: Tim

ONE: The Holy One is delighted you have taken this time to intentionally seek God.

All: Humbly we open the truth of our inward being.

ONE: Come seek the wisdom of God as your guiding light.

Not to make a show of confession and repentance rather to seek renewal.

ALL: Teach us loving God wisdom in the secrets of our hearts

ONE: No matter what burden you carry come and worship in joy and gladness.

Opening Prayer: Tim

O God of all creation; Open our lips and mouths that we may sing words of praise for the beauty of your creation. We set aside our power and the material pride of this world and in humility offer our hearts broken open by your love. Send your Spirit into the cracks of our worldly ways and pry us open that we might be fully yours and fully alive. Amen

Hymn: “Touch The Earth Lightly” VU 307

*Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.*

*We who endanger, who create hunger
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!*

*Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
Water that blesses and air that is sweet
health in God’s garden, hope in God’s children,
regeneration that peace will complete.*

*God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one*

Time with our Children: Bill

Hymn: VU 229 - “God of the Sparrow” (vs. 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:

Psalm 51

Prayer for Cleansing and Pardon

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.
- 5 Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- 6 You desire truth in the inward being;[a]
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
- 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8 Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
9 Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right[b] spirit within me.
11 Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing[c] spirit.
13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
14 Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.
15 O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
16 For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
17 The sacrifice acceptable to God[d] is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,
19 then you will delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Tim

Hymn: “Amazing Grace” VU 266

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.*

*‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved.
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.
‘tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.*

*The Lord has promised good to me, this word my hope secures.
God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.*

*When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.*

Prayer of Confession: Bill

Generous in love—God, give grace!
Huge in mercy—wipe out my bad record.
Soak me in your laundry and I’ll come out clean,
scrub me and I’ll have a snow-white life.
Tune me in to foot-tapping songs,
set these once-broken bones to dancing.

Don't look too close for blemishes,
give me a clean bill of health.
God, make a fresh start in me,
shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life. Amen

Silent prayer

Assurance: Bill

ONE: Because you have asked, our forgiving Mother Father God answers with love. You are made fresh and renewed, whole and true. The very act of asking begins your healing.

ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen

Hymn: MV 161 - "I Have Called You by Your Name," (V 1)

*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.*

WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND ACTION

Prayers of the People and all the World: Bill

Prayers shared from the Chat: Bill

Holy God, you hear our words; you hear our hearts. We are known and heard deeply, graciously, constantly. Confident in this grace, we speak together the words that Jesus taught us...

The Lord's Prayer [Spoken]

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

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

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: Tim

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.

Hymn: "Three Things I Promise" 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.*

*Your love unfolded time and space, and life,
and all that life became, and so, with thankful heart
and voice, through good and ill, I bless your Name.*

*I follow, serve, and cling to Christ amid our culture's
tides and trends, for here your Name is most revealed:
Majestic Love, and Best of Friends.*

*Enlivened as the Spirit moves to cleanse, awaken,
and renew, I pray that justice, peace, and truth, may seed and grow in all I do.
If I should live when vigour fades, and family and
friends are gone, three acts of loving faith remain.
when days are slow, and work is done.*

*Revive and guide me, Living God, as day by day,
until my death, I bless your Name, and cling to Christ,
and listen for the Spirit's breath.*

Blessing and Sending Forth: Tim

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

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