

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Sunday, March 11th, 2018
The Fourth Sunday in Lent

GATHERING IN COMMUNITY

**indicates standing as able

PRELUDE *Two Preludes on "Now Pray We to the Holy Spirit"*
D. Buxtehude

MORE VOICES 92 (sing three times)

**Like a rock, like a rock, God is under our feet.
Like the starry night sky God is over our head.
Like the sun on the horizon God is ever before.
Like the river runs to ocean, our home is in God evermore.**

CALL TO WORSHIP ...Luke Powell

God is colour –
seen in different ways by many different people.
God is unconditional love.
**Though we may come in various unique packages,
God loves us all, just the same.**
After the storm,
God is a rainbow of differences.

*(a Confirmation Creed by Kevin Parnell, Hannah Wilson,
Brenna Lassenba and Emily Baldwin)*

As we journey with our New Creed in this Lenten season,
we give thanks that we are not alone: we live in God's world.

OFFERING OF LENTEN SYMBOL *Dove – Symbol of the Spirit*
...Florence Powell

**VOICES UNITED 111 *As the Sun with Longer Journey*

**PEACE GREETING ...Michael Brooks

The Peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.
*(The Community exchanges words and signs of peace;
Children and youth can proceed to programs)*

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY NEWS

INVITATION TO CONFESSION ...Martha Reynolds

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, forgive us when we are too rigid
to let your free-flowing Spirit bless us.
Forgive us when we try to control everything –
when we over-plan, over-prepare, and over-program.
Forgive us when we fail to recognize your spirit wind
blowing where it chooses. (Silent Prayer)**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Jesus is our judge and our hope.
Therefore, we are a people saved by grace.
Let the Spirit of Christ work in you to reconcile and make new.
**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God!**

MORE VOICES 91 (sing three times)

**Cradle me in your arms, cherish and comfort me.
O Jesus, source of healing love, in your presence I am free.**

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(unison)*

**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
forever and ever. Amen.**

RESPONDING IN CARE AND INCLUSION

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me* K. Lee Scott

**VOICES UNITED 537

**Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere,
and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share.
Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make:
be pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.**

SEEKING TO GROW SPIRITUALLY

FIRST BIBLE READING 1st Corinthians 12: 12-31 (page 182, NT)
...Joan Thompson, reader

VOICES UNITED **376 *Spirit of the Living God*

**GOSPEL BIBLE READING John 3: 1-8 (page 96, NT)
For the Word of God in Scripture, among us, and within us.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON BELIEF AND ACTION: *Journeying with our New Creed*
4. "We believe in God:
who works in us and others by the Spirit."

REACHING OUT IN COMMUNITY AND WORLD

VOICES UNITED **373 *As Comes the Breath of Spring*

**COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE *Improvisation on "Veni Creator" (Come, Holy Spirit)*
V. Archer



Worship Words:

Today is the **Fourth Sunday in the Season of Lent**. It is a season of self-reflection as we prepare for the new life to come in Jesus at Easter. The colour purple is used as a visible reminder of solemnness and reflection. The services begin with a reflective piece of music rather than a joyful hymn of praise. The choir enters from the front of the church rather than in procession. As Lent invites us into a time of "repentance" – of turning from old ways in search of the new – it is most appropriate to publicly offer our confessions of shortcomings to God in prayer through **Prayers of Confession**, and to be assured of God's love and grace.

PORT NELSON
United Church



A New Creed

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.