

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

Fourth Sunday in Lent

## GATHERING IN COMMUNITY

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PRELUDE *O God, Thou Faithful God* J. Brahms

WELCOME *Affirming, Caring, Growing Spiritually, Reaching Out*

CALL TO WORSHIP ...Martha Reynolds

God, our refuge and strength, gathers us to worship today.

**Jesus, our teacher and guide, invites us to ponder and to pray.**

The Holy Spirit, our comforter and companion, holds us in community.

**Wherever we are, we are embraced by those everlasting, loving arms.**

VOICES UNITED 365 *Jesus Loves Me*

Jesus loves me, this I know,

for the Bible tells me so;

little ones to him belong,

in his love we shall be strong.

*Refrain*

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me, this I know,

as he loved so long ago,

taking children on his knee,

saying, 'Let them come to me.' *Refrain*

Jesus loves me still today,

walking with me on my way,

wanting as a friend to give

light and love to all who live. *Refrain*

PEACE GREETING ...Michael Brooks

May the peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

These are isolating times, O God.

**We may feel like hunkering down, withdrawing, ignoring.**

These are trying times, O God.

**We may become impatient, resenting imposed restrictions.**

These are tempting times, O God.

**We may look inward: What do I need? How is my stockpile?**

**Do I have enough?**

These are disheartening times, O God.

**We may sense we are losing hope, wondering where it's all going.**

*(Silent Prayer)*

Forgive us, O God. Forgive us, and help us.

Help us:

**To reach out with our hearts when we can't touch with our hands.**

Help us:

**To be socially connected when we have to be socially distant.**

Help us:

**To love as perfectly as we can,**

**knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear." Amen.**

*(by Richard Bott, Moderator, The United Church of Canada)*

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.**

## SEEKING TO GROW SPIRITUALLY

FIRST BIBLE READING (*unison*) Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.  
He leadeth me beside the still waters; he restoreth my soul.  
He leadeth me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil; for thou art with me.  
Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

VOICES UNITED 619 *Healer of Our Every Ill*

*Refrain*  
Healer of our every ill,  
light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear,  
and hope beyond our sorrow.

You who know our fears and sadness,  
grace us with your peace and gladness.  
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. *Refrain*

In the pain and joy beholding,  
how your grace is still unfolding.  
Give us all your vision, God of love. *Refrain*

Give us strength to love each other,  
every sister, every brother.  
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. *Refrain*

You who know each thought and feeling,  
teach us all your way of healing.  
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. *Refrain*

GOSPEL BIBLE READING Luke 10: 25-37

For the Word of God in Scripture, among us, and within us.  
**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "AN UNUSUAL DAY IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD"

SILENT REFLECTION

## RESPONDING IN CARE

INVITATION FOR OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Meditation from "Thais"* J. Massenet  
...Katelyn Emery, violin;  
Diana Emery, piano

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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## REACHING OUT IN LOVE

VOICES UNITED 586 *We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection*

We shall go out with hope of resurrection;  
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;  
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;  
tales of a love that will not let us go.  
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;  
we'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed;  
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united  
within the vision of new life in Christ.

We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;  
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;  
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,  
expressive love alive in every heart.  
We'll share our joy with those who still are weeping,  
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,  
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story,  
including all in circles of our love.

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE *You Raise Me Up* R. Lovland