



First Sunday in Lent

Divine Self-limitation Illustrating God's Covenant of Love

February 21, 2021

Copyright© 2021 Rev. Franklyn James, All rights reserved
Cover Photo Credit pixy.org

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

APPROACHED TO GOD

Before the service, meditate and speak to God. During the service let God speak to you. After the service talk to each other and the wider community about God.

KEYS

Words printed in **ALL CAPS & bold** are spoken or sung by everyone.

At places marked with the “✝,” you are invited to stand, as you are able.

Functionaries

On Piano

- Lindsay Lundquist

Singer(s)

- Ed Murdock
- Kirsten Earl

Reader(s)

- Carole Hawes

Videographer & Editor

- Franklyn James



Order of Worship

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TERRITORY AND RECONCILIATION

As we gather today, we recognize that the first peoples lived here for countless generations before we did. We acknowledge that we are on the unceded traditional lands of the Splats'in First Nation, and we celebrate their faithful stewardship.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENT

CENTERING SONG

- **Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (G. 1-2) VU#121**

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

- **Joys, Concerns & Prayer Requests**

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: through healing waters,
through troubled waters,
through still waters,
through dangerous waters,
through welcoming waters,

All: God is with us

One: Come let us worship.

OPENING PRAYER

We are grateful, Creator, for sacred water that flows in our bodies and through the earth. Water is a powerful force that both creates and destroy, sustains and erodes, deposits and washes away. Yet, water is wasted, polluted and ignored...

Time of silence or give voice to injustices around water in our community or broken covenants. Amen

HYMN: River Run Deep MV #163

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & THANKSGIVING

In today's prayer of confession and thanksgiving I am inviting you to take a moment to silently reflect on each of the statement I will introduce.

- a. *When have you been cast into the wilderness, away from your comforts, strengths and supports?*
- b. *What has tempted you away from God's life-giving path?*
- c. *Who have been angels or messengers of God to you in these wilderness times including the Covid-19 Pandemic?*
- d. *When have you forgotten God, God's covenant with us and what covenants have you broken in our society?*
- e. *For what do you seek forgiveness?*

After a time of silence, continue:

One: It is tempting to think we have all the answers.

All: Forgive us, God, for the times we give to temptations and turn away from you. lead us in your way we pray. Amen

AFFIRMATION/ASSURANCE

**ALL: A Rainbow reminds us and God of God's promise.
God loves all creation
With a love that is steadfast and true.
God forgives us
and set us free to live.**

One: Thanks be to God. Amen

HYMN: Like a Healing Stream MV #144

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

- **Genesis 9:8-17**
- **Psalm 25:1-10 or VU, p.752**

REFLECTION/SERMON

HYMN: We are Rainbow – David Kai *

We're the light of all the world, we are a city on a hill,
We're a candle on a stand proclaiming light,
We will not hide our lamp beneath a bushel any more,
We will shine a ray of hope that's burning bright.

Chorus

*We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace,
For the flood of tears will finally cease to be,
Come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky,
Paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.*

We're a coat of many colours,
sewn from many different threads,
Covering all in warmth,
in welcome and in grace,
God said "Let there be light",
created every varied shade,
In the rainbow each of us can find a place. *Chorus*

We are hope to still believe in tomorrow's better day,
We are peace in a world that's torn apart,
We are joy that will last in all the struggles that we face,
We are love that blooms and grows in every heart. *Chorus*

When we face the storms of life,
we will never be alone,
For our God will be with us on the way,
Hand in hand, side by side,
we won't be frightened* any more,
As the mourning night of tears breaks into day. *Chorus*

* The hymn may be used without charge with your congregation. Please report any use to CCLI or One License.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

HYMN: Don't be afraid MV #90

Don't be afraid.
My love is stronger,
My love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid.
My love is stronger
And I have promised,
Promise to be always near.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please offer your prayer when the written invitation is seen on your screen.

One: To you, O God, we pray.

In you, O God, We trust.

For you, O God, we wait.

Lead us, so that we may always follow in your way.

Teach us, so that we may remain steadfast and faithful.

Remind us of our covenant so that we may be covenantal people, striving to care for all creation as you care for us.

Where there is brokenness and discord in your creation...

Offer a prayer for those parts of creation that are unrest, environmental and social.

One: Where there is death and dying...

Offer a prayer for people, places, and species that have died, or are dying, including endangered species.

One: Where there is isolation exile and forced migration...

Offer a prayer for people, places, and species, being displaced.

One: Please send reminders of your love, where possible, help us to be your messengers. We ask of this as we pray as one family....

Going Forth HYMN:

- **Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go VU #658**

THANK YOU & BLESSING

Love God in all things, equally.

For God is equally near to all creatures.

And among these creatures,

God does not love any one person more than any other.

God is all and is one.

All things become nothing but God.

Apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things.

If we spent enough time with the tiniest creature

- Even a caterpillar -

We would never need sermons.

So full of God is every creature.

Go and spend time in God's Creation

and in the amazing presence of God in all things.

DOXOLOGY: Wherever You May Go (Refrain x2) MV #216



THANK YOUS & CREDITS

Thank you for participating in today's worship, I pray you have been greatly blessed.

Remember, for those we are unable to connect with any reason; call to buoy up their spirits, and/or pray for them and entrust them to the care of the divine.

Due to physical distancing caused by the Corona Virus, COVID 19, all church activities that require physical contact are suspended until further notice.

GIFTS & OFFERINGS

You may send us your gifts & offerings using the information below:

- Zion United Church @ to zionunitedarmstrongbc@gmail.com
- St. Andrew's @ standrewsunitenderbybc@gmail.com
- Mission & Service Link: <https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/get-involved/giving-opportunities>

Those of you who are on PAR and those who mailed in the gifts and offerings thank you.

We are always happy to hear your comments and queries. If you have prayer requests, you may use our social media message tabs or email them to ministerfranklyn@gmail.com

Call to Worship & Prayers - Seasons of the Spirit™ SeasonsFUSION
Lent - Easter 2021 Copyright © Wood Lake Publishing Inc. 2020

Scripture quotations marked NKJV are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NIV are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by [Biblica, Inc.®](http://Biblica.Inc.®) Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Scripture quotations marked MSG are taken from *THE MESSAGE*, copyright © 1993, 2002, 2018 by Eugene H. Peterson. Used by permission of NavPress. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NRSV are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked WEB are taken from the World English Bible Public Domain.

Sermon Resource: David L. Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor, Editors. "Feasting on the word: Year B, Volume 2: Lent through Eastertide." Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press. (2008). 26-31

MUSIC CREDITS

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery – VU #121

Words, Music: Marty Haugen © 1984

G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

Words, Music: G.I.A. Publications Inc.

Reprinted with permission under One License # A-606375

River Run Deep – MV #163

Words and music: Ian Macdonald and Gordon Light, 2003;
arr. Andrew Donaldson
Words and music copyright © 2003 Common Cup
Company, www.commoncup.com.
Arrangement copyright © Andrew Donaldson.
Reprinted with permission under One License # A-606375

Like A Healing Stream – MV #144

Words and music: Bruce Harding, 2003
Words and music copyright © 2003
by Bruce Harding, www.evensong.ca.
Reprinted with permission under One License # A-606375

Don't Be Afraid – MV #90

Words: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1995
French trans. David Fines, 2005
Music: John L. Bell, 1995
Words and music copyright © 1995, 2007 by WGRG,
Iona Community, Scotland, admin. GIA Publications,
Inc., excl. N. American agent.
Reprinted with permission under One License # A-606375

We are a Rainbow

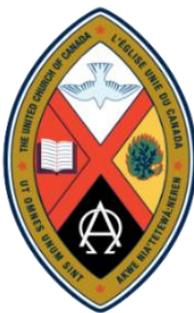
Words and music by David Kai
©2017 Tune: Slocan
Reprinted with permission under One License # A-606375

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go – VU #658

Words: George Matheson.
Music: Albert Lister Peace.
Public Domain.

Wherever You May Go – MV #216

Words and music: David Kai, 1996
Words and music copyright © 1996 by David Kai
c/o Pickering Village United Church,
300 Church St. N., Ajax, ON L1T 2W7.
Reprinted with permission under One License # A-606375



Zion United Church

P.O. Box 370
Armstrong, BC V0E 1B0
Tel: 250-546-9384
Email: Zionchurch@shaw.ca
www.unitedchurcharmstrong.ca

St. Andrew's United Church

P.O. Box 304
Enderby, BC V0E 1V0
Tel: 250-838-7315
Email: standrewsenderby@hotmail.com
www.standrewsenderby.com