

First United Church

1st Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2020

Worship Leaders	Cheryl Perry, Bob Wallace
Music	Alleluia Singers, Frances Chiasson, Jessica Crawford
Greeters	Angela Erdely, Greig McPhee, Pat McPhee
Ushers.....	Linda Gilmour, Karen Hawkey, Bobbie Tough
Communion Servers.....	Caitlyn Bertetic, Maggie Craig, Catherine Doherty, Angela Erdely, Marian Hamilton, John Powell, Mackenzie Pruden, Murray White
Sound System.....	Kim Ducs
Projectionist	Ben Seethaler
Coffee Hour	Joa Lazarus, Judy Valks
Offering Counters	Linda Gilmour, Ken Ottoson, Linda Ottoson

Welcome Table in the hall after worship - Information about activities and services we offer at First United. Remember to update your Family Record so we have current contact information and emergency numbers and if you have not filled out a Family Record you are invited to do so!

The Communion Table at First United Church is a welcoming and open space where all who wish to, may share the holy meal. The bread is gluten free. Please join us.

Sunday school Teachers – Rachel Anweiler, Caitlyn Bertetic, Cheryl Perry, Moira Pritchard, Mackenzie Pruden, Isabella Seethaler, Jessica Vinton.

Prayer Cycle - This Sunday, in the annual rotation, we join with other churches to pray for Squamish United Church.

Peace & Justice Table in the hall after worship - Environmental issues, urgent actions & Fair-Trade items.

Food Share Containers in the hall - for non-perishable food & hygiene items.

Healing Ministry - Please contact Judy at 250-862-0712 for appointment.

Gathering

Prelude

Ringing of the Bell, Welcome, Announcements

Introit "God in the Darkness" (More Voices 17)

**God in the darkness, God beyond our knowing,
patient creator, seed in secret growing,
rock of the living, water ever flowing,
come and renew us.**

Call to Worship (responsive)

Jesus of the temptations, you enter the wilderness of our
hunger, our lust for power, our eagerness to test God:
be with us on our journey to Jerusalem, we pray.

Jesus of hope, you set aside your glory, choosing to cradle
us in your scarred hands:
hold us in your tender embrace, we pray.

Jesus of the Feast, you are broken so we might be healed, you
pour out yourself so we might be drenched in your grace:
feed us from the simple gifts of creation, we pray.

Hymn "Joy Shall Come, Even in the Wilderness" (Voices United 23)

Prayer of Reconciliation (unison)

**Led by the crafter of lies, Lord God, we wander into the
wasteland of wrong-doing.**

**We hunger for more and more; and feel emptier and
emptier.**

We seek power, especially over others, only to do harm.

**By our choices, we worship the false gods of success, wealth,
and spectacle.**

**Have mercy on us, God of love, and forgive us for the power
we give temptation in our lives.**

Help us to become as vulnerable as Jesus, for in that vulnerability, we find the ability to trust you in all things; in that trust, we discover grace which sets us free from the grasp of the shrewd one; in that freedom, we leave our badlands behind, and follow Jesus in this life, and the next.

Sung Prayer of Confession “Because You Came” (More Voices 64)

**Because you came and sat beside us,
Because you came and heard us speak
and we ignored you and we refused you,
we ask forgiveness, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Words of Hope (responsive)

Be glad and rejoice! Give thanks with shouts of joy! Grace abounds for everyone.

With glad cries of deliverance, we offer our thanks to God who loves us and forgives us. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Word

Word for all ages

Reception of Members – Martha Jane Lewis,
Michel and Susanne Marentette, Judith Paulhus

Congregational Commitment

Let us pledge to these persons our continued support and care.
**We will continue to support you, walk with you, and grow with you. With God’s help, we will live out our baptism as a loving community in Jesus Christ:
nurturing one another in faith,
upholding one another in prayer,
encouraging one another in God’s work.**

Hymn “Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song” (Voices United 641)

Children leave for Sunday school

Anthem "A Place of Beginning Again"- MacDonald

Matthew 4:1-11

Reflection

Hymn "We Gather Here In Jesus' Name" (Voices United 469)

Thanksgiving

Offertory "We Will Take What You Offer" (More Voices 196)

We will take what you offer, we will live by your word;

We will love one another and be fed by you, God.

We will take what you offer, we will live by your word;

We will love one another and be fed by you, God.

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Too often, we give into the temptation to keep everything for ourselves. But you want us to notice those who hunger for hope, as well as for bread; those who are caught in the injustices of the world; those who struggle to find themselves.

And in noticing, we become generous and loving, even as we have been graced by our Brother and Saviour, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May the God of discipleship be with you.

And also with you.

Let us begin our Lenten journey with open hearts.

We offer them to the One who walks with us.

Let our voices resound with thanksgiving to the One who shows us faithful care.

We rejoice in our God of hope and love.

...With the faithful who have gone before us, with companions through this journey today, we offer glad songs of deliverance.

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of steadfast love.

Creation sings your praises as on that first morning.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who brings grace to us.

Hosanna in the highest!

...As we begin to follow him to Jerusalem, as we would choose to embrace his suffering, we speak of that free gift called faith:

Christ died, going into the wilderness of the grave;

Christ was raised, shattering the grip of sin and death;

Christ will come, so we might follow him to the New Jerusalem.

The Lord's Prayer (VU 959)

The Breaking and Sharing

Prayer Following Communion

Thank you, merciful God, for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own.

Give us the gifts of this holy communion — oneness of heart, love for neighbours, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Sending Forth

Hymn "Lift High the Cross" (Voices United 151)

Benediction

May God lead us to all who are afraid.

We will follow God into the barren spots of our world.

May Jesus lead us to all who look for a friend, a companion in this life.

We will follow Jesus into all the places where the lonely live.

May the Spirit lead us to all who are tossed aside by the world.

We will follow the Spirit to the neighborhoods filled with injustice, to bring hope.

Commissioning "Spirit God, Be Our Breath" (More Voices 150)

Spirit God, be our breath, be our song

Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.

Through change, through challenge, we'll greet the new dawn,

Spirit God, be our song. (2x)

Postlude "Up"-M. Giacchino

Next Week's Lectionary Readings:

Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121;

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

*As part of our Lenten journey, you are invited to bring your intentions and prayers to a ritual at the cross. Choose a scroll at the foot of the cross and as you hold it, pause and think about your prayer in the moment. Tighten the roll and place into one of the open spaces in the cross, **painted white end first (away from you)**, as a way to offer your prayer. Or place it in the bowl near the cross and it will be added for you.*

Do this, throughout Lent, whenever you feel inspired, as many times as you like, and we will see the cross fill up with the prayers of our community.

~Karen Kranabetter, liturgical artist

The Annual Meeting of First United is today following worship in the hall with lunch by donation. There will be gluten free and vegan options for lunch.

Fair trade sale today Looking for ways to support our students in El Salvador and small-scale producers globally? Check out the Outreach Core Ministry table in the hall after worship. We have olive oil, Za'atar, coffee, tea, dates, olive oil soap, crafts and chocolate bars for sale.

Zatoun Fair Trade event Robert Massoud, a Palestinian Canadian and the founder of Zatoun Fair Trade olive oil will be here at First on March 4 to present "**What's holding up the Israel-Palestine Peace Train?**" at 7:00pm. <https://whats-happened-to-the-peace-train.eventbrite.com> Registering on Eventbrite is not mandatory but will help us plan for seating. Questions? Contact Debbie at 250-469-4468 or zatoun.sinteriorbc@gmail.com

March 8 is International Women's Day Here at First, the Outreach Core Ministry is co-hosting the documentary, "*In the Name of Your Daughter*" with three other groups: Amnesty International Okanagan, Canadian Federation of University Women and Grandmothers for Africa. "*In the Name of your Daughter*" is a story of courage and hope about young girls and women in Tanzania who are resisting the practice of female genital mutilation or cutting (FGM/C). Sunday, March 8: doors open at 1:00pm. The documentary will begin at 1:15pm. Registering on Eventbrite isn't mandatory but will help us plan for seating: <https://inthenameofyourdaughterkelowna.eventbrite.ca>.

St. Patrick's Day POTLUCK supper Please plan to get together to celebrate the green holiday of March with dinner and music and festivities. Saturday, March 14 at 5:30pm in the hall.

Ushers and Greeters The Worship Core Ministry has asked that there be a review of the duties of both the ushers and greeters. We would like those of you that are already filling these positions or any of you that might be interested in joining, to get a coffee or tea after the service on **Sunday, March 15** and come into the Sanctuary for a brief review of the duties of each position.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED
MARCH 1 - 8, 2020

Today	10:00AM	Sunday Worship: Sanctuary
	11:00AM	Lunch by donation: Hall
	11:00AM	Sale of Fair-Trade items: Hall
	11:30AM	Annual Meeting: Hall
	3:00PM	Alleluia Ringers rehearse: Belfry
Monday	10:00AM	Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: 14
Tuesday	10:00AM	Coffee and outreach: Hall
Wednesday	11:00AM	Pastoral Care: 12
	7:00PM	Robert Massoud presentation: Hall
Thursday	8:30AM	Healing Ministry: Vestry
	10:00AM	Coffee and outreach: Hall
	4:00PM	Outreach Core Ministry: 14
	7:00PM	Alleluia Singers rehearsal: Sanctuary
Friday		
Saturday	6:30PM	All ages Dance: Kitchen/Hall
Next Sunday	10:00AM	Sunday Worship: Sanctuary
	11:00AM	Refreshments: Hall
	11:15AM	Affirm PIE eating event: 12
	12:00PM	Okanagan Japanese worship: 14
	3:00PM	Alleluia Ringers rehearse: Belfry