

# First United Church

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3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2020

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Worship Leaders ..... Cheryl Perry, Bob Wallace  
Music ..... Alleluia Singers, Frances Chiasson, Jessica Crawford  
Greeters ..... Dwila Rose, Jean Simons, Dorie Trimble  
Ushers..... Alyssa Campbell, Maggie Craig, Mel Sparrow  
Sound System..... Carl Stef  
Projectionist .....  
Coffee Hour ..... Gerry Hewitt, Beryl Itani  
Offering Counters ..... Audrey Beal, Lyn Brown, Irene Pett

**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!

**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 St. Andrew’s United Church in Kaslo.

**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

Ring 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)

O come, let us sing to our God

**Let us shout with joy to the rock of our salvation.**

Come into the presence of the one who shatters all barriers to fellowship

**We come to hear Jesus, whose words fill us with hope**

Come to know how much God loves each one of us.

**We come to receive the gift of reconciliation and new life.**

Hymn "Water Flowing from the Mountains" (More Voices 87)

Prayer of Reconciliation (unison)

**God of eternity, you know how often we travel down the rocky roads of doubt and fear. We pester others with our worries; we hurl bitter words at those we love. We have chances to offer ourselves in service, but only give our contempt to those in need. We could share the living waters with the world but want to store it in jars for safe-keeping.**

**Fountain of Grace, you turn towards us, to meet us wherever we are. You break open our rock-hard sin, so we might be made whole. In Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, our thirst for hope and joy is quenched.**

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)

God does not disappoint us. Our sins are forgiven, our lives are made whole, we are sent forth to serve.

**In Jesus Christ, living water breaks through the roof of our hearts, in such abundance that we don't have enough buckets to hold it all. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

*Please share the peace in ways that do not put people at risk of illness or discomfort.*

## Word

Exodus 17:1-7 (Ailie Bertetic)

Word for all ages

Hymn "Joy Shall Come" (Voices United 23)

*Children leave for Sunday school*

Anthem "Living Water"- Crocker

John 4:3-42 (Carol Drury)

Reflection

Hymn "By the Well, a Thirsty Woman" (More Voices 117)

## Thanksgiving

Prayer of Intercession (Carol Drury)

The Lord's Prayer (Voices United 959)

Musical Reflection "Over the Rainbow"

-Harburg/Arlen, arr. Eva Cassidy

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 Thanksgiving (unison)

**We pray, Gracious God, that our gifts may provide  
nourishment to those who thirst for justice, strength to those  
who hunger for hope, a community to those living in  
loneliness. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## Sending Forth

Hymn "River Running in You and Me" (More Voices 163)

Benediction

Let us go now, to meet all thirsting for God.

**We will share the living water with everyone we meet.**

Let us go now, to listen as Jesus does with us.

**We will hear the stories and hearts of all who are considered  
voiceless by our world.**

Let us go now, to bring the Spirit's wholeness to others.

**We will bring peace and healing to the broken and lonely,  
even as they offer us hope and grace by their lives.**

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 "Rain Down"-Jamie Cortez, arr. Mark Hayes

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## **Next Week's Lectionary Readings:**

*I Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23;  
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41*

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### **Staff spring break holidays:**

Tanya Pritchard is away from the office March 16-23. Frances Chiasson is away March 16-22. Cheryl Perry is away March 23- 29.

**Ushers and Greeters** We would like those of you that are already ushering or greeting or any of you that might be interested in joining, to get a coffee or tea after the service **TODAY** and come into the Sanctuary for a brief review of the duties of each position.

**Post-worship discussion** Next Sunday, March 22, there will be an informal discussion about Sunday service. Grab your coffee or tea and meet in room 14 to talk about what you heard in the sermon, in the hymns or prayers.

**Monthly Prayer Shawl Ministry** Join us to knit or crochet prayer shawls for our congregation and the community at 1:00pm in room 14 on Thursday March 19. We'll help those who are beginner knitters or crocheters.

**Pictorial Directory photo sessions** will resume in April. Please sign up at the welcome table for your appointment.

**Walk & Talk Registration** Spring is coming, so its time to return to Walk and Talk. Once again, we will meet on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:30 - 11am. The first session will be March 25. Registration will occur, Sundays March 15 and March 22 in the board room, immediately after worship. There is more information about Walk and Talk in the First Word. Join us to register or to have your questions answered or call Pat at 250-768-0791.

**Emergency Food Cupboard** – Our Emergency Food Cupboard has increased needs and shrinking supplies. Under our I CAN - ONE CAN program each of us is asked to bring a non-perishable donation each Sunday in Lent. Canned meats and fish, soup, pasta and sauce, beans and Boyardee are suitable choices. And to those who are able UCAN - TOUCAN

**The Outreach Bulletin Board** We recently received a parcel from El Salvador containing letters and beautiful hand-made Christmas cards from the scholarship students in our sister community of El Triunfo. These will be displayed over the next few weeks on the Bulletin Board in the hall alongside the Reconciliation presentation. The creative use of available resources, and the gratitude for our congregation's support that their messages reflect, are well worth your attention. Please check them out!

<b>THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED</b> <b>MARCH 15 - 22, 2020</b>
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<b>Today</b>	10:00AM Sunday Worship: Sanctuary
	11:00AM Refreshments: Hall
	11:15AM Usher and Greeter training: Sanctuary
	3:00PM Alleluia Ringers rehearse: Belfry
<b>Monday</b>	10:00AM Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: 14
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00AM Coffee and outreach: Hall
<b>Wednesday</b>	
<b>Thursday</b>	8:30AM Healing Ministry: Vestry
	9:00AM Tax Clinic: Hall
	10:00AM Coffee and outreach: Hall
	1:00PM Prayer Shawl ministry: 14
	7:00PM Alleluia Singers rehearsal: Sanctuary
<b>Friday</b>	
<b>Saturday</b>	
<b>Next Sunday</b>	10:00AM Sunday Worship: Sanctuary
	11:00AM Refreshments: Hall
	11:15AM Post-worship discussion: 14
	3:00PM Alleluia Ringers rehearse: Belfry