

Strathearn United Church

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Fifth Sunday in



LENT

Our Living Statement... Strathearn United Church is a loving Christian community living by faith and action, communicating through worship, education, fellowship and outreach, greeting the future with hope.

Minister	Rev. Sandy Ferguson
Minister Emeritus	Rev. Dr. Don Mayne
Music Director	Kathryn Wood
Musician	Shannon Hiebert
Office Administrator	Rena Spiess
Custodian	Rup, Coverall Services

We, the congregation of Strathearn United Church, are situated on Treaty 6, traditional lands of the First Nations and the Metis People.

Strathearn United Church welcomes you to our morning worship, all are welcome!
22nd of March 2026, Fifth Sunday in Lent

MUSICAL PRELUDE

A TIME TO GATHER

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: Today we remember the faithful servants of this congregation who passed away this year. We give thanks for the gifts of service they shared with us And gives thanks for their stories of their lives.
(Reading list of names "In Memoriam" from 2025 Annual Report.)
Amen.

OPENING HYMN:

"For the Faithful Who Have Answered" VU707

- 1 For the faithful who have answered when they heard your call to serve, for the many ways you led them testing will and stretching nerve, for their work and for their witness as they strove against the odds, for their courage and obedience we give thanks and praise, O God.
- 2 Many eyes have glimpsed the promise, many hearts have yearned to see.

Many ears have heard you calling
us to greater liberty.
Some have fallen in the struggle,
others still are fighting on.
You are not ashamed to own us.
We give thanks and praise, O God.

- 3 For this cloud of faithful witness,
for the common life we share,
for the work of peace and justice,
for the gospel that we bear,
for the vision that our homeland
is your love — deep, high, and broad —
for the different roads we travel
we give thanks and praise, O God.

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PRAYER OF APPROACH: *From the United Church of Canada Called to Be the Church*

One: God, You, who are the Holy Spirit, moving the waters. You, who are the Creator, whispering in Ezekiel's ear. You, who are the Christ, breathing new life into the church. You, who are the Wind that Makes All Winds Blow. Your people are here. Your world is here. Dry bones, wondering if there is still life in us. Speak to the winds, we pray. Fill us again, with life. Life abundant, Life made new. Fill us again, that we might breath, loving God!
Amen.

A UNITED CHURCH CREED

**All: 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.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE

"Imagine if every church became a place where everyone is safe, but no one is comfortable. Imagine if every church became a place where we told one another the truth. We might just create sanctuary."

-Rachel Held Evans

HYMN: "Out of the Depths O God, We Call to You" VU611

- 1 Out of the depths, O God, we call to you.
Wounds of the past remain, affecting all we do.
Facing our lives, we need your love so much.
Here in this community, heal us by your touch.
- 2 Out of the depths of fear, O God, we speak.
Breaking the silences, the searing truth we seek.
Safe among friends, our grief and rage we share.
Here in this community, hold us in your care.

3 God of the loving heart, we praise your name.
Dance through our lives and loves;
anoint with Spirit flame.
Your light illumines each familiar face.
Here in this community, meet us with your grace.

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All: (silence)

One: God have mercy.

All: Christ have mercy.

One: God have mercy. Let us pray...

All: 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.

WE SHARE IN GOD'S WORD

One: O God, Your Word is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive Your truth in faith and love. Amen.

THE RESPONSIVE READING: PSALM 130 1:1-6

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God.

All: God, hear my voice, let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

One: If you, O God, should mark iniquities, who could stand?

All: But there is forgiveness with You, so that You may be revered.

One: I wait for God; my soul waits, and in their word, I hope

All: My soul waits for the Lord

One: More than those who watch for the morning,

All: More than those who watch for the morning.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL 37:1-14

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

SERMON: Psalm 19:14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to You, O God, my rock and my redeemer.

THE WORD OF GOD ENACTED

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" VU541

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

The Dedication of Gifts:

One: God, Creator of All, receive these gifts of time, treasure and talents from our hearts and our hands. May they be used to reveal Your Kingdom in the world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

*Pray as though everything depended on God.
Work as though everything depended on you.
(Attributed to Saint Augustine of Hippo)*

One: God, we gather before You to give thanks. We give thanks for all who are Your light in the world. Who do what they can to bring compassion, hope and justice into the lives of others. Who are willing to reach out and ask, 'what can we do for you?' In silence, God, we bring to You the names of those who have been Your light to us. (Silence) God, we bring our prayers to You. Our prayers for a better world. Our prayers that we will have the strength, courage and compassion to embrace and enact Your vision of how this can be a better world. We pray for those who struggle in these times of economic, political and social turmoil. For those oppressed and yearn for justice. And God, we pray for Your church that we may be a light to those who struggle. And God we come to You with the prayers of our hearts. For those who we know who struggle with illness of the mind, body and spirit. For those who are alone. For those who yearn for connection. These names we bring to you. (Silence) Amen.

HYMN: "Eternal Light, Shine in My Heart" VU629

- 1 Eternal light, shine in my heart;
eternal hope, lift up my eyes;

eternal power, be my support;
eternal wisdom, make me wise.

- 2 Eternal life, raise me from death;
eternal brightness, make me see;
eternal Spirit, give me breath;
eternal Saviour, come to me,
- 3 until by your most costly grace,
invited by your holy word,
at last I come before your face
to know you, my eternal God.

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SENDING FORTH:

One: To dream. To hope.

To be part of something new.

This is the invitation that God offers to us when we allow ourselves to be touched by the breath of God. Amen.

POSTLUDE

PRAYER CYCLE OF THE WEEK

Our Family: Clare Forton, Liane Fowler, Owen Fraser,
Adam Fry & Family, Roger Godin, Gloria Greene

Within Strathearn: Trustees

Northern Spirit: Earth Hour (March 28, 8:30 – 9:30 pm);
Garneau McDougall United Church;
Goodfish Lake United Church

World Council of Churches: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania