

Strathearn United Church

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5th 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.

MINISTRY AND STAFF

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 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 |

PRAYER CYCLE OF THE WEEK

Our Family: Park Family, Mary & Lorence Plitt,
Jake Pott, Terry Prince, Rampling Family

Within Strathearn: Group Leaders

Northern Spirit: Riverbend United Church

WCC: Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia

Strathearn United Church welcomes you
to our Morning Worship!
26th of March 2023, Fifth Sunday in Lent

MUSICAL PRELUDE

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME & GATHERING

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

"The church is God saying: 'I'm throwing a banquet, and all these mismatched, messed-up people are invited. Here, have some wine.' - Rachel Held Evans 1981-2019

HYMN: "God Is Here"

VU389

- 1 God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.
- 2 Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace; here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place. Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech, here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.
- 3 Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold; here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us, as of old. Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.
- 4 God of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt keep us faithful to the gospel; help

us work your purpose out. Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive; we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

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PRAYER OF APPROACH:

One: God, we pray that our encounter with You will renew us, To see Your hope, Your faith, That we as Your community will be so touched by Your vision that we will be Your living witness in the world, A living glimpse of Your Kingdom. Amen.

A UNITED CHURCH CREED

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.

The United Church of Canada, General Council 1968, alt.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & FOR GOD'S HELP FROM THE IONA COMMUNITY

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God" (Verse 1) VU382

**1 Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldest do.**

One: Holy God, maker of all

All: Have mercy on us

One: Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor

All: Have mercy on us

One: Holy Spirit, Breath of life

All: Have mercy on us

One: Let us in silence remember our own faults and failings. (Silence) I confess to God and in the company of all God's people that my life and the life of the world are broken by my sin.

All: May God forgive you, Christ renew you, And the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

One: Amen.

All: I confess to God and in the company of all God's people that my life and the life of the world are broken by my sin.

One: May God forgive you, Christ renew you, And the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

All: Amen.

One: As a forgiven people we share in peace of Christ and turn again to God, who through the Spirit gives us new life

All: So we your people may rejoice in you

One: Make within us a clean heart, O God

All: And renew a right spirit within us

One: Give us again the joy of your help

All: With your spirit of freedom sustain us.

One: And now, as Jesus taught us, let us pray together

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, and the power,
and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

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 illuminates each familiar face. Here in this community, meet us with your grace.

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WE SHARE IN GOD'S WORD

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.

RESPONSIVE READING: PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 12:12-26

- One: For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.
- All: **For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.**

One: Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

All: **If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.**

One: And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.

All: **If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?**

One: But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

All: **If all were a single member, where would the body be?**

One: As it is, there are many members yet one body.

All: **The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."**

One: On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect,

All: **Whereas our more respectable members do not need this.**

One: But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another.

All: **If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.**

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

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

THE WORD OF GOD ENACTED

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

"Prayer does not mean simply to pour out one's heart. It means rather to find the way to God and to speak with God, whether the heart is full or empty." Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945)

One: God, we thank you for all good things, for life and love, for health and food, for work and home, for nature's beauty and comfort, for human skills and laughter, for memory and hope, For our connections with one another. And in silence we bring our prayers of thanksgiving to You. (Silence) God, we pray for Your creation, the world we live in. For all who struggle in difficult days, For those who cry out for justice, For those who search for hope, For those who yearn for healing, For those living their lives hoping for better days. God, the world as we have shaped it fails to be the world You hoped for. Yet You have faith that we will be Your witness to Your love for all. So, God we pray that you will fill us with Your justice, Your strength and Your compassion, And in doing so we will be the people who reach out to the lost of this world and say, "You are not alone." Let it begin with prayer as 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: "Praise with Joy the World's Creator" VU312

- 1 Praise with joy the world's Creator, God of justice, love, and peace, source and end of human knowledge, God whose grace shall never cease. Celebrate the Maker's glory, power to rescue and release.
- 2 Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry, frees the captive, finds the lost, heals the sick, upsets religion, fearless both of fate and cost. Celebrate Christ's constant presence: friend and stranger, guest and host.
- 3 Praise the Spirit sent among us, liberating truth from pride, forging bonds where race or gender, age or nation dare divide. Celebrate the Spirit's treasure: foolishness none dare deride.
- 4 Praise the Maker, Christ, and Spirit, one God in community, calling Christians to embody oneness and diversity. This the world shall see reflected:
God is One and One in Three.

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SENDING FORTH & BENEDICTION:

One: The world is weary. Many wonder, can we still hope in such days. In such a world we are invited to share a dream of Good News. God, be with us. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Connect & Share Hosts:

Mar 26: Pastoral Care / Task Teams (after ACM)

Apr 2: Trustees / Ministry & Personnel

Apr 9: Happy Easter! – No Coffee