

WELCOME

If you are a visitor or newcomer, our first hope is that you will experience God's love and care. Our second hope is that you will also experience our love and care. Some of us are shy and quiet. Others of us are bold and outgoing. Yet, in all our ways we want to say: "YOU ARE WELCOME!"

Offering gifts to God's service is an integral part of our worship. Many people at St. Martin's have chosen to make their offering by post-dated cheque or PAR. Others prefer weekly offering envelopes. Visitors and guest should not feel obligated to share in our offering, but if you so desire you may find offering envelopes at the entrance to the sanctuary.

MUSIC

At St. Martin's we are richly blessed by many fine musicians. We encourage you to acknowledge their contributions to worship through silence, or when impelled by the Spirit, through applause.

OUR CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Bob McPherson - Chair of the Board
Cathy Anderson - Secretary of the Board
James Cook – Treasurer
Kevin Hurlburt – Caretaker
Brandy Emmerich – Office Administrator
Brian Walton - Pastoral Care & Worship Leadership
Keith Hall - Youth, Young Adults, Newcomer Relations,
Volunteers & Pastoral Care
Darren Wooff – Children's Ministry & Outreach
Betty Lou Agnew - Organist
Cara Wilson - Handbell Choir
Keith Hall & Erin Tempel - Contemporary Singers
Aliah Nelson & Mars Zhao - Sanctuary Choir
Lori Cline Flath – Band Together
Donna Thiessen – Little Voices United



A congregation of The United Church of Canada

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Vision: To be a thriving, welcoming faith community that makes the example of Christ relevant to our living.

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 18, 2018

9:30 a.m.

Words of Welcome

Acknowledgement of the Land

Community News

Extinguishing the Fifth Lenten Candle & Sung Response

We are travelling the journey of lent

a time for reflection,

a time for confession,

a time of yearning for the light of Christ.

Today we ponder life in God's commonwealth:

and what it means to hope.

**We acknowledge that we do not understand
the mysteries of Life and death.**

Sometimes we find it hard to trust the Power of Love.

We extinguish a candle on this fifth Sunday of Lent

aware of what we do not know

and of the limitations of our faith.

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, promised to be always near.

(repeat)

Invitation to Worship

Lent is a time to prepare and renew
our spirits for living with the Christ.

During this time of worship we pray that

**God would know our hearts,
even as we strive to know the heart of God.**

**Let us 'prepare' by examining ourselves;
and let us 'renew' by engaging in acts of love and justice.**

(... we continue in prayer)

In this season of Lent we return to the Way of Jesus.

It is a path into the uncharted territory of love;

**it is a confrontation with failure,
and the resurgence of hope eternal.**

God of the desert, let it be your bread we eat.

God of the wilderness, let it be your world we serve.

For Love's sake. Amen.

Lifting our Voices in Song

"Spirit of Life" VU#381 (sung twice)

Story Time with Dianne

Children are Invited Downstairs

Prayer of Reconciliation

**God, we confess that we often come to you reluctantly,
afraid of what we might have to give up**

to be in relation with you and your Way.

In our reluctance we often miss opportunities

to be touched by grace.

Give us courage to live with faith each day,

and open us to the surprises that can come

from a life lived in the Spirit of your Love. Amen.

Listening for God's Word:

Psalm 8

O LORD, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark
because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars that you have established;

what are human beings that you are mindful of them,

mortals^[a] that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God,^[b]

and crowned them with glory and honor.

You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;

you have put all things under their feet,

all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,

whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O LORD, our Sovereign,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

1 Corinthians 15 (selected verses)

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.^[f] ²¹ For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being ... But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ... What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain ... So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable ... It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body.

Lifting our Voices in Song

"God Who Gives to Life its Goodness" VU#260

Reflection on the Concepts of Heaven (& hell)

Sanctuary Choir

Response to the Reading

Affirming Minute

Offering Our Gifts

Offering Song “Give Thanks”

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One:

Give thanks because God’s given Jesus Christ the Son.

And now let the weak say “I am strong” let the poor say “I am rich”
because of what the Lord has done for us.

And now let the weak say “I am strong” let the poor say “I am rich”
because of what the Lord has done for us.

Give thanks.

Praying for Others and Ourselves

& the Prayer of Jesus (sung VU #959)

Sharing our Voices in Song

“Love is the Touch” MV#89

Words of Blessing

Blessing Song

“May the Grace of Christ Attend Us” VU 963

May the grace of Christ attend us,

and the love of God surround us,

And the Holy Spirit keep us now and ever.

Amen