



# WILMOT UNITED CHURCH

## LENT FIVE

April 2, 2017

Portions of the service printed in **bold** are spoken by the whole congregation.

At the points marked \* - those who are able are invited to stand.

Presider: Rev. Rose-Hannah Gaskin

### THE PEOPLE GATHER

**Organ Prelude:** Chaconne in F minor (Pachelbel)

**Lenten Introit:** Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (Verse 5) VU #121

#### **Lenten Candle Liturgy:**

On this fifth Sunday of Lent, we move ever closer to Good Friday and Jesus' suffering and death.

**Yet in the midst of the darkness of Lent, we hear words of hope.**

The scriptures remind us that God will not abandon us even when we are close to despair. God will make a way for us in the wilderness. God promises us water in the desert and flowers in dry land. Jesus trusted in God's abundance and calls each one of us to live generous lives. We are challenged to let go of our fears so that we can become part of the pouring forth of blessing in our world. *(Candle is extinguished)*. Let us pray:

**Loving God, You call us from darkness and despair, to life and hope. Help us be open to the possibility of new life which can spring forth from the darkness of the old. Amen.**

#### **Welcome to the Church**

#### **Call to Worship:**

One: From the tombs of winter hibernation,

**All: we emerge to worship God.**

One: From the isolation caused by snow banks and cold,

**All: we find God's warmth in this place.**

**One: Let us worship the God of life.**

**All: Let us worship together.**

**Opening Prayer:**

Creating God, still centre of the world you have made,  
we come to you in this season of turning and returning.

We do not know to seek you with our whole hearts,  
but we know you are our source and our destiny.

In the midst of life,  
we return to you,  
we turn toward you.

We thank you that you receive even the broken heart,  
the troubled conscience, the conflicted spirit. Amen.

**The Lord's Prayer:**

**Our Father, which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.**

**Thy Kingdom come.**

**Thy will be done in earth,  
As it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive them that trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen.**

**\*Hymn: As Comes the Breath of Spring**

**VU #373**

**Story Time for the Young and Young at Heart**

**\* Hymn: Oh a Song Must Rise**

**MV #142**

**Connecting to Our Hearts' Longing:** Psalm 130

## **Silent Prayer**

### **Assurance of God's Love:**

God is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
God has compassion for our fears and failures;  
God stays with us on our Lenten journey.  
We are a forgiven people. Thanks be to God!

**\*Hymn:** There's a Wideness in God's Mercy VU #271

## **LISTENING FOR TRUTH**

### **Prayer of Preparation:**

John Beyea

**God of call, God of transformation,  
God of the Lenten journey;  
help us to discern your still, small voice.  
Open us to change and growth  
that we may walk with Christ. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading:** Ezekiel 37: 1-14

**Anthem:** Blessed Are The Eyes That See (Catherwood)

**Scripture Reading:** John 11: 1-45 Rev. R-H Gaskin

**Reflection:** God Brings Life Out of Death Rev. R-H Gaskin

## **Time for Silent Reflection**

**\* Hymn:** Breathe on Me, Breath of God VU #382

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

### **Announcements**

### **Invitation to The Offering**

## Offertory Music

### \* Doxology:

VU #543

**We give thee but thine own,  
what e'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thine alone,  
a trust, O God, from thee.**

### \* Prayer of Dedication:

God of New Life, all around us are reminders of your covenant with creation. Our gifts represent our commitment to your way of wholeness. Use these offerings to quench thirsty souls, shower your earth with blessings, and transform hungry hearts. This we give in thankfulness and praise. Amen.

## Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Minister: Can these bones live?

Response: **You know, O God.**

### \* Closing Hymn:

O World of God

VU #258

### \* Commissioning:

We have celebrated the past,  
for God has been there to guide us.  
We have been renewed in the present,  
for Christ has been here in our midst.  
We shall be encouraged into the future,  
for the Spirit continues to blow among us,  
giving us peace, hope, faith and love as we seek  
to be people of the Way.  
Go, and know that you care through all that you share.  
Give, responding to the ways that God has generously  
given to each one of you, and be thankful. Amen.

**\* Blessing and Sending Forth:**

God of the wilderness,  
be with us as we wander through the desert of our lives.  
Keep us from running back  
to the safety of old assumptions,  
and walk with us as we learn to live the life abundant. Amen.

**\* Choral Amen**

VU #969

**Postlude:**

Tocatta in C minor

(Pachelbel)

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If you wish, you are invited to remain for the Postlude as it is part of our Worship Service.

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World Autism Awareness Day

Steven and Joan MacKenzie and family dedicate today's bulletin in recognition of World Autism Awareness Day which is observed on the **2nd of April** every year since 2008 and aims to increase people's awareness about people, especially children, with autism.

**WELCOME** to this service of worship and thank you for being with us today. If you are new to our church, we have a 'Welcome to Wilmot' kit for you. Please ask one of the ushers at the back of the sanctuary, for the blue folder. We're glad you're here! You are invited to join us for **COFFEE & CONVERSATION** in the Dr. G. M. Young Memorial Hall following the worship service.

**BENEVOLENT OFFERING:** On the first Sunday of every month we collect a special Benevolent Offering. This is used to provide food vouchers for those in need on Wednesday afternoons.

**SYMPATHY:** Our love and condolences are extended Jack Oudemans on the recent death of his son, **Michiel**. Love and condolences are also extended to Laurie Drain and family on the recent death of **Gordon Drain**. We also extend our love and condolences to Bruce and Marilyn Noble on the recent death of Bruce's father, **George Noble**. Our prayers and thoughts are with all of these families.

**FLOWERS FOR EASTER:** The Sanctuary Committee invites members of the congregation interested in placing flowers at the front of the church, in memory of loved ones, for the Easter Sunday service (April 16), to have them to the church by 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. Please advise Marlene, no later than Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> of whom your donation is in memory so that it can be noted in the bulletin.



### **LENTEN CARBON FAST:**

**Monday** Re-use an item you would otherwise throw away – such as a jam jar, envelope, plastic container with lid.

**Tuesday** Cover a pan when cooking. Use a kettle to boil water.

**Wednesday** Unplug your mobile phone charger. It uses electricity even when not charging.

**Thursday** Put on a sweater and turn down your thermostat to 65°- 68° (18-20°) when people are home and active and 55°- 58° (13-14°) at night as well as when no one is home. In warm climates, raise your air-conditioner thermostat up one setting. Home heating and air-conditioning are responsible for a large portion of our carbon footprint.

**Friday** Wash your dishes by hand and let them air-dry. If you must use a dishwasher, run it only when you have a full load, and skip the energy-intensive drying cycle by choosing the "air-dry" option. Or, just stop the machine once the water has drained and leave the door open overnight.

**Saturday** Take a shower instead of a bath, and try to limit your shower to less than 5 minutes. If you already shower, consider taking a "cottage shower" - turn the water on only to rinse. Look into getting a more efficient shower with a "low-flow" showerhead. An average bath uses 40-60 gallons (180 - 270 litres) of water; an average shower 17 gallons (77 litres); a cottage shower less than 5 gallons (22 litres).

### **Sixth Sunday April 9**

Observe an **Embrace the Silence Sunday**. Turn off everything – no TV, radio, computers, video games. It will be good for the soul. You will save on carbon emissions and save money too. Contemplate Jesus' life and teachings, and consider the implications this has for the day to day choices you make which affect the environment and climate change. Think of what being a follower of Jesus means with regard to your responsibilities in your home, your church, your community and the world.

Wilmot's **SPRING RUMMAGE SALE** is just around the corner April 21st (3 - 6 p.m.) and April 22nd (9 a.m. - noon)! As you start your spring cleaning, please keep the sale in mind. Donations may be left on the stage in the gym. Last April's sale brought in over \$2200 for the UCW thanks to the many donors and shoppers!



**LENTEN RECITALS:** All are welcome to hear the following recital at St. Paul's United Church, Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 12:10 p.m. - Dr. Sharon Pond (organ) with the Vocal Collective (Youth Choir).

### **LOOKING AHEAD:**

#### **ASTE – June 11 – 16, 2017**

The 49<sup>th</sup> annual **Atlantic Seminar for Theological Education** will take place June 11<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus in Truro, N S. The topic is the **Spirituality of Pop-Culture** and is centered around exploring questions like “What are the spiritual/religious needs of the contemporary person and how are those needs being met by the church? Is the church hoping that people will 'wake up' and return to church, or can the church wake up and listen to what pop-culture has to say to the church? Can we afford not to listen?” For more info. check out [www.ASTES.ca](http://www.ASTES.ca) or contact the registrar, Joanne MacIntosh (902) 893-3392 or [jrmacintosh@hotmail.com](mailto:jrmacintosh@hotmail.com)

#### **BERWICK UNITED CHURCH CAMP – June 28 – August 6, 2017**

Berwick has been a Christian Family Camp since 1872 and those who have attended are great cheerleaders for the awesome programming that is put together for the entire family – worship, music, conversations, children and youth programming and much more. This year the Theme Speaker will be the **Rev. Dr. Yvette Flunder**, a San Francisco native, who is well known for her ministry of worship, service and advocacy on behalf of those most marginalized. A minister within the United Church of Christ, she is an award winning gospel music artist and author. For more info: <http://www.berwickcamp.org/newsite> or speak with those who have attended – Sue & Bob Breen, Mary Lynn & Gordon Cameron...and many more.

## THIS WEEK AT WILMOT

April 2<sup>nd</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>

### TODAY: LENT FIVE

9:30 am ADULT BIBLE CONVERSATION - Board Room  
11:00 am WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL  
12:00 pm COFFEE & CONVERSATION

### Mon. April 3:

1:30 p.m. SPANISH CLASS -Parlour  
6:30 p.m. LEGAL ADVICE CLINIC - various rooms  
6:45 p.m. TOASTMASTERS CLUB - Board Room

### Tues. April 4:

1:30 p.m. SPANISH CLASS - Parlour  
5:00 p.m. MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Parlour  
7:00 p.m. MARTIAL ARTS - Gym

### Wed. April 5:

9:00 a.m. QUILTERS - Parlour  
10:00 a.m. TOY LIBRARY  
1:00 p.m. WEDNESDAY @ WILMOT  
6:30 p.m. OUTREACH COMMITTEE - Board Room  
7:00 p.m. PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY - Parlour  
7:00 p.m. NA GROUP - Fireside Room

### Thurs. April 6:

9:30 a.m. QUILTING and FELLOWSHIP (learn to quilt) - Parlour  
6:30 p.m. HANDBELL CHOIR PRACTICE  
7:00 p.m. MARTIAL ARTS - Gym  
7:30 p.m. CHOIR PRACTICE \_\_\_\_\_

### Sat. April 8:

10:00 a.m. TOY LIBRARY  
6:00 p.m. DROP-IN CENTRE  
7:00 p.m. F'TON CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT - Sanctuary

### Sun. Apr. 9: PALM SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. ADULT BIBLE CONVERSATION - Board Room  
11:00 a.m. WORSHIP & S.S.  
12:00 p.m. COFFEE & CONVERSATION

## A Congregational Giving Program

Our gifts for Mission & Service support congregational stewardship programs. Let us hear a story about the current congregational giving program.

How can we help congregational leaders encourage their churches to support both local mission and the ministry of The United Church in Canada and around the globe? How could that support help everyone to live faithfully every day?

Responding to these questions, the United Church created *Called to Be the Church* - an annual resource to help congregations fund their dreams and make a difference in their community and in the world through Mission & Service.

Creative folk from across our church collaborated on worship services, sermons, and learning programs to do three things that will help build support for our mission here and as a denomination. The *Called to Be the Church* congregational giving program helps to

- **inspire** people to see not just where the money goes but also what generosity accomplishes
- **invite** people to join others in making a difference in the lives of many, near and far
- **thank**, to model gratitude for all the gifts we receive from God.

This giving program is available for all congregations to access in print and online. It is easily adaptable for all to build and sustain generosity in their communities.

We sing thanksgiving for congregational stewardship programs that inspire, ask and thank!

If Mission & Service is already a regular part of your giving, thank you so much! If you have not given for Mission & Service please consider making Mission & Service a regular part of your life of faith. In all our Mission & Service giving, with a willing heart, we sing thanksgiving to God!

