



**WILMOT UNITED CHURCH
TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY
February 26, 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. President: The Reverend R-H Gaskin

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Organ Prelude: Andante Cantabile from Symphony No. 4 (Widor)

Welcome to the Church

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship:

To climb a mountain

is no easy task.

It takes work of the heart, hand, and mind.

To meet God, face to face,

is no easy task.

It takes work of the heart, hand, and mind.

In the climbing, in the meeting,

we are changed.

In the speaking, in the listening,

we are changed.

In the worship, in the prayer,

the world is changed.

So we climb, we meet,

we speak, and we listen—

And, most of all,

we worship God!

Richard Bott, Dunbar Heights U.C., Vancouver, B.C. (richardbott.com)

*** Opening Hymn:** Holy, Holy, Holy

VU #315

Opening Prayer:

Through Epiphany, we have been walking in the light of Christ. We are children of God and followers of Jesus, the Light of the World. Next week, the light of our faith will guide us into the gathering shadows of Lent.

In thankfulness for the light and love of God, let's worship now!

Let us pray together:

Wonderful God, your brilliance is not only seen on mountaintops in Bible stories. Your brilliance shines wherever your people show love and compassion in your name. May our worship together inspire us to go out from here overflowing with your grace, ready to shine your love and peace everywhere, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Susan Ivany, Westminster U.C., Thunder Bay, Ont.

Time with the Young and the Young at Heart

Rev. E. Beairsto

*** Hymn:** Sing a Happy Hallelujah

VU #224

Prayer for Mercy:

Compassionate One, hear our prayer:
stretch out your hand in healing love.
Create in us a clean heart, O God,
and renew your Spirit within us.

Words of Assurance:

You, O God, are the Light of the World,
leading us to the mountaintop
and manifesting yourself to us.
You fill our hearts and minds and lives
with your glory and your love.

Thanks be to God. Amen. *Fern Gibbard, Penticton U.C., Penticton, B.C.*

* Hymn: _____ Fairest Lord Jesus

VU #341

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Prayer of Preparation

Steven Peacock

Scripture Reading: Exodus 23: 12-18

Second Reading: Matthew 17: 1-9

Anthem: Sing to the Lord

(Mollicone)

Sermon: Christ Is with Us through the Highs and Lows of Life

Rev. R-H Gaskin

* Hymn: We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

VU #104

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to The Offering

Offertory Music

* **Doxology:**

VU #541

**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.**

Prayer of Dedication:

**Blessed are you, gracious God:
you have given us life and freedom
to be your people in the world.**

**Blessed are you, gracious God:
you have called us into the church,
and into this community of faith,
pilgrims together on the journey into new creation.**

**Blessed are you, gracious God:
you have touched our hearts with hope,
so that we long to see the day of your salvation.
Accept, now, these gifts we bring.
Enable us to use them
for the coming of your new community
of justice and shalom.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

*** Closing Hymn:** Joyful, Joyful We Adore You VU #232

*** Commissioning:**

You are strengthened by the glimpse of glory.
Your true worship gives you courage to proclaim God's love.
Now may the God of transformation
give you power so that your lives prove you to be God's people.
We go with joy to live out holy love.

Robin Wardlaw, Glen Rhodes U.C., Toronto, Ont.

*** Benediction:**

May the road rise to meet you,
may the wind be always at your back,
may the sun shine warm upon your face,
may the rains fall soft upon your fields,
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

*** Choral Amen** VU #969

Postlude: Toccata in D Major (Krieger)



Today's bulletin is sponsored by Bob and Susan Breen in loving memory of friend, **Jane Foster** who passed away on March 1, 2010.

WELCOME to this service of worship and thank you for being with us today. You are invited to join us for a **SOUP LUNCHEON** in the Dr. G. M. Young Memorial Hall following the worship service. Soup is by donation – if you can't donate this time, no worries, we want you to partake! Proceeds from the Soup Luncheon which is organized by the Outreach Committee will be going to Outreach projects.

SYMPATHY: Our love and condolences are extended to Cheryl Smith and her family on the recent death of **Dr. Stephen Smith**. The funeral service was held here at Wilmot on Tuesday of this past week. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, friends and colleagues.

THE PRAYER CIRCLE offers confidential prayer support for those with physical, emotional, family and spiritual needs. To have your concerns added to the Wilmot prayer list contact Guy Vezina (455-6174) or Raday Brown (454-3001).

INCOME TAX RECEIPTS are now available. You may pick yours up after worship.

CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED March 2 - 23rd while Marlene is on vacation. Access to church during afternoons (12:30 - 6 p.m.) not possible unless group leader has key or prior arrangements are made.

THE YOUTH AND I SAY THANK YOU: Our youth fund is slowly growing and that is thanks to you. Last week alone, we collected \$35.50 for all the bottles that you donated to us. Keep them coming. You can just drop them off in my office or we can even pick them up! A few of the youth are planning on attending Maritime Conference this year in May. As well, a few are also hoping to travel to Montreal to RendezVous 2017 in August where we will gather with youth from United Churches across Canada and Bermuda. Your donations will certainly help us. THANK YOU! - Ellen

THE OBSERVER: Subscriptions to *The Observer* are due the end of March. However, because Marlene is on vacation for three weeks in March we are asking that you consider renewing, or subscribing to *The Observer* now. Please use the envelope provided in the bulletin. If paying by cheque (\$25), please make it payable to Wilmot United Church.



Wilmot's annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper is right around the corner... February 28th! We look forward to welcoming you between 5:00 and 6:30 for a delicious meal of pancakes, homemade baked beans, sausages, assorted beverages and a light and refreshing fresh fruit salad for dessert. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$4 for children over 5, and \$20 for families. Anyone interested in volunteering at the event will be warmly welcomed to join in and be part of the fun in the Wilmot kitchen and hall during the preparation, serving and clean-up shifts. Preparation and set-up begins at 1:00 p.m. and clean-up will wrap up by 8:30 p.m.

WILMOT BOOK CLUB meets on Tuesday, Feb. 28th, at 7:00 p.m. around the fireplace in the parlour to discuss the book *The Illegal* by Lawrence Hill. This book was the winner of Canada Reads 2016, a Pierre Berton GG History Award winner, as well as Best Book of the Year for the Globe and Mail and the National Post. There will be lively discussion as well as a cup of tea for all who come. Everyone is welcome.

WILMOT SENIORS: Why don't you join us on Tuesday, March 7th at 1:30 p.m. in the parlour for a fun afternoon of Bingo! As usual, there will be prizes and a delicious refreshment time which will be provided this month by Group 3. All seniors and retirees are warmly welcome!

PANTRY DONATIONS! The first Sunday of each month the Outreach Committee collects donations for our Pantry (used at Wednesday at Wilmot). Non-perishable items can be placed in and beside the trunk at the bottom of the sanctuary front entrance stairs. Thank you for your donations !

HARMONICA LESSONS: The harmonica is a portable, inexpensive instrument whose music can move you to tears or inspire you to dance with joy. Malcolm Miller holds free, one hour harmonica lessons every Wednesday at 12 noon in the Fireside Room and anyone from the Wilmot congregation is encouraged to participate along with a few of our friends from Wednesday at Wilmot. He will even provide you with a harmonica. No previous experience needed - beginners welcome. Drop in to give it a try or call Malcolm at 471-8916 for more information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Several spots are available on Wilmot's Community Kitchen teams and you are invited to consider this volunteer opportunity. Every Sunday evening from 4 - 6 p.m., one of our six teams helps to prepare and serve a hot meal and clean up afterwards. Two hours every six weeks to help the most vulnerable people in our community and it's fun! Please contact Beth Paynter for more info: 454-5581 or bpaynter@nb.sympatico.ca.

CANCELLATION POLICY: In the event of a bad snow storm, you can check either the Wilmot website or the office voicemail to see if the building is open, or a service of worship has been cancelled. You can also call either Ellen (206-1943) or Rose-Hannah (292-1680).

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH... contact Judy Coates 454-5631 judycoates@rogers.com transportation coordinator.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

KIWANIS DELIGHTS: TODAY at the Delta Hotel. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Delights include a draw for Diamond Ring valued at \$1,000, a Fashion Show sponsored by Hospice Boutique, a Dessert Buffet, and a Silent Auction. Tickets are available from Kiwanis members (454-1298), at the Hospice Boutique on Prospect St., and Westminster Books on King St. Monies raised support Kiwanis Fredericton community programs and Hospice Fredericton.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: The Women's Inter-Church Council is having four World Day of Prayer Services for 2017 in the Fredericton Area. The World Day of Prayers has been prepared by the Women of the Philippines with the theme "Am I Being Unfair To You?" Please come on Friday, March 3rd, and join with Christians in more than 170 countries around the world who will gather to learn about, pray, and celebrate in solidarity with the people of the Philippines through the World Day of Prayer.

Northside/ Maryville: St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church, at 7 p.m. Storm date: Sunday, March 5 at 3 p.m.

Forest Hill/Lincoln: Forest Hill United Church, at 7 p.m. No storm date.

Hanwell/New Maryland: St. John and St. Paul Church, New Maryland at 7 p.m. No storm date.

South side: St. Dunstan's Roman Catholic Church, at 2 p.m. No storm date.

The Church in China

Our gifts for Mission & Service support global partnership and theological engagement. Let us hear the story of the United Church delegation to the church in China.

We give thanks that The United Church of Canada answered an invitation from Mission & Service partner The China Christian Council to witness together and accompany one another in God's mission. The group of twenty-two United Church people from across Canada saw first-hand the experience of the Chinese church.

Moderator Jordan Cantwell led the delegation. "This visit opens a window for deepened church-to-church engagement and presents an opportunity for the United Church to understand China through encounters with Chinese Christians," she said. The visit also recognized the existing partnership between our churches, building a long history of mission and ministry together in China. It was another step in continuing our faithful journeys toward unity, justice, and peace.

Delegates saw the blessings of the church in China and the challenges it is addressing. They shared from their unique perspective the challenges and opportunities of the United Church.

"We return with the friendship and blessing of the Chinese church and a deepened commitment to sharing God's great works in our diverse and varied Canadian contexts," said participant Betsy Anderson.

We sing thanksgiving that Mission & Service helps build relationship and partnership for God's mission of justice and peace.

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!

THIS WEEK AT WILMOT

Feb. 26th - March 5th

TODAY:

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

Monday, Feb. 27:

- 1:30 p.m. **SPANISH CLASS** -Parlour
6:45 p.m. **TOASTMASTERS CLUB** - Board Room

Tuesday, Feb. 28: SHROVE TUESDAY

- 5:00 p.m. **PANCAKE SUPPER** - Gym
7:00 p.m. **BOOK CLUB** - Parlour



Wednesday, March 1: ASH WEDNESDAY

- 9:00 a.m. **QUILTERS** - Parlour
10:00 a.m. **TOY LIBRARY**
1:00 p.m. **WEDNESDAY @ WILMOT**
7:00 p.m. **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE** - Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** - Parlour
7:00 p.m. **NA GROUP** - Fireside Rom

Thursday, March 2:

- 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** _____

Saturday, March 4:

- 6:00 p.m. **DROP-IN CENTRE**

Sunday, March 5: LENT ONE

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

Lenten Carbon Fast

Consider a Carbon Fast this year during the season of Lent. We will provide you with daily suggestions for reducing energy consumption and overall carbon footprints.

Day One *(Ash Wednesday)*

Remove one light bulb and live without it for the next 40 days. Replace three frequently used light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. If every household did it, we would prevent a trillion pounds of greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere.

Thursday Check your home for drafts with a ribbon or feather. If it flutters, add weatherproofing measures.

Friday Tread lightly. Whether by foot, bike, bus or car, find ways to reduce carbon emissions when you travel today. Not driving just one day a week can reduce CO2 emissions by about 8 pounds per week. That adds up to about 400 pounds of CO2 per year. (Source: Consumer Reports)

Saturday Be sure to recycle everything possible.

Sunday, March 5

Read Genesis 1:1-2:3 and reflect on the goodness, beauty and power of creation. Offer gratitude for the creation and sustenance of the earth and for everything that is good on earth. Go for a walk near your home and notice what's beautiful around you. Encourage others to join in our Fast as we increase our witness to faithful creation care.

And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? - Micah 6:8

You are invited to take part in an exploration, a journey of discovery. The purpose of this "**Brown Bag Lunch**" is to provide an opportunity for Christian spiritual learning and development during the Lenten season.

You are invited to explore and grow with others as we consider questions to:
become more aware of our own personal faith journey;
deepen our personal faith and relationship with God;
find support for our faith journey;
support the faith journeys of others;
consider ways in which our faith challenges us to act more compassionately and justly within the world.

The themes of the six sessions are:

March 2 ~ How do you experience God in your life?

March 9 ~ Who is Jesus for you?

March 16 ~ The Bible: What does it mean to you?

March 23 ~ Prayer: What does it mean to you?

March 30 ~ Nurturing your faith: Which spiritual practices are best for you?

April 6 ~ What is this community called church?

Each session follows the same basic format:

12:00-12:10 - Gather in circle

12:10-12:25 - Centering ritual and presentation on theme

12:25-12:45 - Eating lunch and discussing theme at tables

12:45-12:55 - Closing ritual

When: 12:00 noon-1:00 pm, Every Thursday, March 2-April 6, 2017

Where: St. Paul's United Church, stpaulsunited.ca 458-1183

Leadership: Rev. Richard Bowley, Pastor Sarah Magie

Brown Bag: Bring your lunch. Coffee, tea, and water will be provided.

All Are Welcome!

