



WILMOT UNITED CHURCH

February 18, 2018

Lent One

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 Rev.R-H Gaskin

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Organ Prelude: Intermezzo and Meditation (Franck)

Introit: Dust and Ashes Touch Our Face – Verse 1 VU # 105

Welcome to the Church

Call to Worship:

If the Spirit leads us into the wilderness
of a life beyond our understanding or control,
in the spirit of Christ, let us meet each other and journey together.

If the world judges us as successful
because we are rich or we are beautiful,
**in the spirit of Christ, let us hold up faith and justice as the measure
of wealth.**

If rules and traditions tempt us to resist change
because transformation is dangerous and unfamiliar,
**in the spirit of Christ, let us welcome this new day trusting God's
leading us.**

Wendy MacLean, Christ U.C., Lyn, Ont.

Lenten Candle Liturgy:

One: On this the first Sunday of Lent, we reflect on the temptations of
this world which test our desire to do what God wants and to
honour our covenant with God.

Like Christ during his wilderness experience, we are faced by the
reality of making choices.

Choices which call us to be obedient to God's plan or to give in to
what appears to be the easy way.

All: We snuff out the candle today as we think of those times we have chosen things which draw us away from God. Every time we give into temptation, we lessen the light of God in the world. A candle is extinguished

One: We are also reminded today of God's promise to all of creation. And with sadness we acknowledge that creation is threatened by pollution and our mismanagement of the earth's resources. Our choices have not always been wise ones.

All: Gracious God, our Protector and Defender. We come before You knowing that we do not always follow Your way. Help us to treat one another and all of creation with love, kindness and justice. Comfort and support us as we make our way through Lent. Amen.

Opening Prayer Marking Our Lenten Journey:

Today marks the beginning of a journey we are taking with Jesus to Jerusalem. As we travel through Lent, we will leave behind a marker, a piece of purple cloth, to remind us where we have been with Jesus.

In the desert, Jesus faced temptations designed to break his faith. The devil offered him bread in his hunger, freedom from dependence on God, and power in his humbleness.

We also face temptations in many forms: food, power, and freedom, among others.

Sometimes, we are not strong enough to withstand temptation. In times of weakness, we can return to God, trusting in God's sustaining and powerful love.

Let us pray: God, help us in our weakness. Forgive us the times when we feel like our spirits are wandering in a barren wilderness and we lose faith in your goodness and mercy, thinking we must go it alone in this world.

May this marker remind us to stay strong and faithful when we feel alone and lost in the wilderness. May this marker remind us that Jesus is beside us always. Amen.

Sandra Jenkinson, Zion U.C., Sundridge, Ont.

* **Opening Hymn:** Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights VU #108

Time with the Young and the Young at Heart

Rev. E. Beairsto

* **Hymn:** Jesus Bids Us Shine

VU #585

Prayer of Confession:

Covenants, when made, have lifelong consequences.

Covenants kept and covenants broken.

Covenants, when lived, change our lives.

Lives broken and lives made whole.

Covenants with each other.

Covenants with God.

As people baptized by the Holy Spirit,
we are part of a never-ending covenant—

God is our God, and we are Christ's people.

People of the Creator

People of the Christ

People of the Holy Spirit

People of the Covenant

People of Christ's Way.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Love:

God of the Promise,

we recommit ourselves to you today.

Remind us of the rainbow.

Remind us of the waters of baptism.

Remind us of the responsibilities

we have accepted, as your people.

May your never-ending grace and your forever love

be in us and with all creation, always.

In Christ's name, we ask these things. Amen.

Richard Bott, Dunbar Heights U.C., Vancouver, B.C.

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Prayer of Preparation:

Marcia Crouch

**God, the words you speak have power:
power to create, power to disturb, power to heal.
Help us to hear your Word for us today. Amen.**

Scripture Reading: Genesis 9: 8-17 and Mark 1: 9-15

Anthem: Bread of the World (Garland)

Reflection: The Journey Begins Rev. R-H Gaskin

*** Hymn:** As the Sun with Longer Journey VU #111

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to The Offering

Offertory Music

The Sacrament of Holy Communion – please see insert

All are welcome to the Lord's table. Please follow the ushers' instructions on how to come forward. Take a piece of bread and then dip it into the juice and eat it prayerfully before returning to your seat. Gluten-free bread and water are also available. If you wish to remain in your seat, you may be served in the pew.

SENDING FORTH

*** Closing Hymn:** All Who Hunger VU #460

*** Commissioning:**

During the season of Lent, we are called to ponder:
ponder our call to a life of love,
ponder our call to follow self-giving in Jesus,
ponder who we are and whose we are in faith,
and ponder how we need to turn back to God—
first in confession and then in repentance.
Only then can we fully embrace God’s unconditional forgiveness.
During the season of Lent, we are called to ponder.
Let us go from this place,
continuing to ponder what it means to live as a disciple of Jesus
and continuing to live the Way of Jesus each day. Amen.

Gord Dunbar, Port Nelson U.C., Burlington, Ont.

*** Benediction**

Choral Amen

VU #967

Postlude: Toccata in E minor

(Pachelbel)

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

WELCOME to this service of worship and thank you for being with us today. We're glad you're here! You are invited to join us for a **SOUP LUNCHEON** in the Dr. G. M. Young Memorial Hall following the worship service. Thank you to members of the **OUTREACH COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEERS** for providing this time of refreshments and fellowship.



Our love and condolences are extended to Rev. Ian MacDonald and family on the recent death of wife and mother, **Virginia MacDonald**. Virginia passed away on Feb. 12th and a service was held at Wilmot on Friday, Feb. 16th.



If you haven't yet picked up your copy of the Lent/Easter issue of **Words from Wilmot** be sure and ask one of the welcomers today, or find a copy at each of the entrances to the Sanctuary and at the Carleton Street entrance. If you know of someone who would like a copy but cannot attend church, or a friend or relative who would like one, please take copies for them as well. You can access all newsletters

including the current issue in full colour on our website www.wilmotuc.nb.ca. Thank you for sharing our Wilmot news with others.

WILMOT SENIORS: Please join us for our mid winter potluck luncheon on Tuesday, February 20th at 12 noon in the parlour. Some sing-along fun with Lynda-Jean Coffin will follow our meal. What better way to rid ourselves of the winter blahs than over a delicious meal with friends and a bit of fun afterwards. All seniors and retirees are warmly welcomed.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Wilmot will be holding its **AGM on Feb 25**. As has been our custom, we will have lunch beforehand. In order to prepare for the luncheon, we are asking our congregation to provide sandwiches, sweets, etc. We ask the people whose last names are from A to P - please bring sandwiches. As well, if you are bringing sandwiches that are gluten-free, please mark this for us. Those whose names are from Q to Z, please bring sweetbreads, squares or cookies (no nuts please). Thank you. Volunteers to help with the luncheon are much appreciated. Special thanks to the Pastoral, Care & Health as well as the M&P committees for their support.

LENTEN DISCUSSION: during Lent, we will be offering a four-part series of after-worship sessions for our shared learning and group discussion.

February 18- "Connecting with our Muslim Neighbours" - Kylie Bergfalk

March 4 – Everybody Eats – food security in NB - Marg Routledge

March 11- "Ending Poverty R US"- How might Christians be called to this work
in 2018? Gail Wylie

March 18- Plight of Palestinian Children - "That's No Way to Treat a Child"

- Ruth Breen

LENTEN CARBON FAST

Consider a Carbon Fast again this year during the season of Lent. We will provide you with daily suggestions for reducing energy consumption and overall carbon footprints. Some will be the same as last year while others are new.

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 19

Monday: Turn your central heating thermostat down by one degree. For every degree you lower your thermostat, you can cut energy use by about 3 percent. That translates to an average annual CO2 savings of about 1500 pounds. You save money too.

Tuesday: Say goodbye to standby. Turn off electrical equipment when not in use. One TV alone will save 44 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions per year.

Wednesday: Notice what food you throw away this week. See if you can reduce it by a third. Eat leftovers and shop more carefully using a list and planning your meals. The amount of food thrown away by an average household adds the equivalent CO2 emissions of 1-5 cars.

Thursday: Dry your clothes on a clothesline instead of in an electric drier. Electric driers use up to 10% of residential electricity. The average household can save more than \$100 a year by forgoing the electric clothes dryer and using a clothesline. Clothes dried in the fresh air smell better, too! Some say that you can soften your towels and prevent them from drying stiff on the line by adding a ½ cup of white vinegar to the rinse cycle.

Friday: Carpool! Sharing a ride just two days a week will reduce your carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated average 1,590 pounds a year.

Saturday: Plan now to celebrate Earth Day, April 22 with your family, friends or community. <https://earthday.ca/ed2017/#>

Second Sunday, February 25: Pray for the work of charitable organizations that help vulnerable communities adapt to change around the world.

FOR YOUR ATTENTION: One thing I would invite you to help me with throughout Lent is “Praying The News”. This will be included in our corporate worship. When you hear of a situation in the news that needs our prayers, please help me bring it to light by printing it on a four inch square piece of paper. Bring this to me on Sundays or leave it for me in the office any time. We will have these ‘prayer cards’ available every Sunday during Lent so that individuals can pick out a paper and take it home to pray for that situation throughout the week. Every week, you can take home a prayer card. All through Lent, as you listen to and read the news, keep making me these “prayer cards”. I believe our prayers can make a difference and I need your participation to launch this Wilmot Lenten initiative. Rose-Hannah

DID YOU KNOW? **Stephen Gough** is working at this year’s Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea with NBC. As Stephen said, “I’ll be doing short track only and assisting the production with research/analysis. During the broadcast I’ll be sitting off screen with Apolo Ohno and Ted Robinson feeding them information.” These are Stephen’s fourth Olympics:

- 1994 – Lillehammer, Norway - Skated on Canada’s men’s 5000 m relay team. The team came first in their semi-final and fourth in the final.
- 2010 – Vancouver BC - On short track coaching team, working with the Canadian men. The men’s team won gold in the 5000 m relay.
- 2014 – Sochi, Russia - Was head coach for the USA short track speed skating men’s and women’s team. The men’s team won silver in the 5000 m relay.

GREAT WORK, STEPHEN!

FACES OF NEW BRUNSWICK: Those who wish can now purchase Keith Minchin's latest book of photography *Faces of New Brunswick* at the church office for the reduced price of \$30.00. All profits will be generously donated to the Wilmot Local Fund. Look for an article about Keith in the February Words from Wilmot. Copies will also be available for viewing at Coffee and Conversation.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Could you spare 2.5 hours once every six weeks to help prepare and serve meals to those in need in our city? Wilmot has six teams that rotate at the Fredericton Community Kitchen and several of the teams are in need of new members. If you are interested, please email Beth Paynter at Beth.paynter.nb@gmail.com

STRENGTHENING OUR WELCOME TOGETHER

An evening of possibilities

Wednesday Feb. 28, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. - Wilmot Church parlor

Removing barriers: If you need anything that would facilitate your attendance (travel, on-site conditions, etc.), please let us know – the contact people are listed below. Refreshments will be served.

Purpose: As a faith community, we strive to be a welcoming presence, where people feel safe and comfortable in participating in the life, work and worship of our church. Sometimes we can see ways to strengthen this welcome that are simply about the context that we create- physical limitations of our building, how we set up or run meetings, expectations that are perceived or real, established ways of doing that may make people uncomfortable or uneasy. Collectively, we are experts in identifying these aspects of our church environment that make it more difficult to participate. We know what welcome, comfort and safety look like to us. This workshop is about tapping into our experience to identify those structures or ways of doing that create barriers and to brainstorm for actions that can be taken to strengthen our sense of welcome, comfort and safety.

Format: After an introductory exercise to set the context for the workshop, participants will be invited to select a one of five working groups listed below for the evening. Instructions will be provided for the group task:

- 1) How we meet and grow in faith
- 2) Taking care of each other
- 3) How we talk about money and share resources
- 4) Our engagement in the greater community (local and global)
- 5) Not listed above, but important to you

Outcome: Results of brain- storming on problem spots and potential solutions (without-judgement).

Contacts for more information: Norm Laverty (455-3349), Deb Bradbury (206-2948), Maureen Toner (457-2954) or Elizabeth Savoie (454-1945)

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Our gifts for Mission & Service support children's rights in Kenya. Near Lake Victoria, the Kenya Alliance for the Advancement of Children's Rights works in schools in the area, creating a child ambassador program that seeks to live out the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

Javan was 11 years old when he lost both of his parents, leaving him to look after his younger brother. He has to leave school to sell mangoes and oranges to raise money to keep his younger brother in school.

When Javan was 12, he heard about the child rights program. He was so inspired by what he heard that he worked to get himself enrolled in this program. Soon he was back in school.

Through the partnership of the Kenya Alliance for the Advancement of Children's Rights and Mission & Service of The United Church of Canada, we are thankful that Javan and his brother are able to continue their education. Javan will soon be going to university to study to become a medical laboratory technician, and his brother is now in high school. Our gifts for Mission & Service made this possible.

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please consider joining in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbor is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

THIS WEEK AT WILMOT

Feb 18 – 25th

TODAY:

LENT ONE

9:30 a.m. ADULT BIBLE CONVERSATION – Board Room
11:00 a.m. WORSHIP & S.S.
12:00 p.m. SOUP LUNCHEON
12:00 p.m. LENTEN DISCUSSION - Parlour

Mon, Feb. 19:

6:30 p.m. LEGAL ADVICE CLINIC – various rooms

Tues, Feb. 20:

12:00 p.m. SENIORS POT LUCK LUNCH - Parlour
6:30 p.m. SPANISH CLASS – Board Room
7:00 p.m. FAITH FORMATION - Parlour
7:00 p.m. MARTIAL ARTS - Gym

Wed. Feb. 21:

9:00 a.m. QUILTING and FELLOWSHIP - Parlour
10:00 a.m. TOY LIBRARY
1:00 p.m. WEDNESDAYS @ WILMOT
7:00 p.m. NA GROUP – Fireside Room

Thurs. Feb.22:

PRESBYTERY MEETING – various rooms
6:30 p.m. HANDBELL CHOIR PRACTICE
7:30 p.m. CHOIR PRACTICE

Sat. Feb 24:

10:00 a.m. TOY LIBRARY
6:00 p.m. DROP-IN CENTRE

Sun. Feb 25:

LENT TWO / ANNUAL MEETING

9:30 a.m. ADULT BIBLE CONVERSATION – Board Room
11:00 a.m. WORSHIP & S.S.
12:00 p.m. COFFEE & CONVERSATION and ANNUAL MEETING