



WILMOT UNITED CHURCH

March 18, 2018

Lent Five

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: The Reverend Rose-Hannah Gaskin

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Organ Prelude: Variations on a Hymn for Lent (Wood)

Handbell Prelude: Grazioso/O God beyond All Praising
The Frank T. Pridham Memorial Handbell Choir

Introit: Take, O Take Me as I Am MV #85
Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me.

Welcome to the Church

Lenten Candle Liturgy:

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

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

One: 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.

(Fifth candle is extinguished)

All: 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.

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer:

And it begins.

Life is a cycle—

every moment a beginning,
every moment an ending.

Life is a cycle—

ever changing, never static.

Life is a cycle—

“Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain.”

Life is a cycle—

but in all the change,
from birth to death and beyond,
the one constant is this:

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God!

Let us pray:

Write your love on our hearts, God of all.

Place your call into the deepest depths of our souls,

because we are your people, always,

because you are our God, always.

**Let your Spirit move us,
change us, drop us into the earth,
and then make us grow—
in Jesus' name! Amen.**

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

*** Opening Hymn:** O God beyond All Praising VU #256

Time with the Young and the Young at Heart Rev. E. Beairsto

*** Hymn:** Oh a Song Must Rise MV #142

Prayer of Confession:

Covenant God, as we approach you in worship, wrap us in your steadfast love. Write your commandments upon our hearts. Assist us in putting you first in our lives, God, in honouring the Sabbath, and in respecting our elders. Steady us to turn away from idolatry, misuse of your name, murder, adultery, theft, lies, and coveting. Lead us by the hand to live in this world serving you, O God, rather than serving only ourselves. Create in us a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within us. By the power of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Elaine Bidgood Sveet, First Lutheran, Rugby & Leeds, North Dakota

Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Love:

One: Be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

All: **Thanks be to God for the love that names us children of God.**

R. Wardlaw

***Hymn:** In the Bulb There Is a Flower VU #703

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Prayer of Preparation:

Nancy Gilbert

Our prayer, O God, is to notice your whispers.

Our expectation is to feel your embrace.

Our yearning is to understand your Word.

Our song is to praise you for merciful grace.

Our hope is to become ever more your people. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 31: 31-34; John 12: 20-33

Response: This is the witness of Scripture

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: A Home over Jordan

(Purifoy)

Sermon: Tension Builds In Jerusalem

Rev. R-H Gaskin

*** Hymn:** My Lord, What Morning

VU #708

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Announcements

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 over the Offering:
Teach us, O God, to offer
the very best of who we are
in the service of your will
through the mission of this church:
may we offer hope,
may we offer joy,
may we offer reconciliation
in a world so much in need.
Receive what we give
for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Kate Crawford, Huron Shores U.C., Grand Bend, ON

Prayers of the People

Sending Forth

***Closing Hymn:** Jesus Shall Reign VU #330

***Commissioning:**

Renewed in the Spirit
be strengthened and know that you are loved.
Renewed in the Spirit
know that you can make a difference in all that you do and say.

J. McKean

***Blessing**

***Choral Amen** VU #967

Postlude: Toccata in D Minor (Froberger)

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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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WELCOME to this service of worship and thank you for being with us today. We're glad you're here! 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. You are invited to join us for **COFFEE & CONVERSATION** in the Dr. G. M. Young Memorial Hall following the Worship service. Thank you to members of the **Faith Formation Team** for providing this time of refreshments and fellowship.



Today's bulletin is sponsored by Bob and Susan Breen in celebration of **World Down Syndrome Day** held every year on March 21st. The 21st day of the 3rd month represents the triplication of the 21st chromosome that gives us the gift of people with Down Syndrome. It is a great time to celebrate the contributions made by people with Down Syndrome every day in our schools, communities, workplaces and families, in Canada and around the world. "See the ability!"

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).



Our sincere condolences are extended to the family and friends of the late **Anna Tennant** who passed away last weekend. Anna and her husband, Eric, were well known by Wilmoters as Eric served as organist here at Wilmot from 2005 - 2007. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends.

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

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



On Easter Sunday, it is our tradition to express the joy of Jesus' Resurrection and honour the memory of family and friends, by decorating our Sanctuary with flowers.

If you'd like to remember your loved ones in this way, please call or e-mail Marlene no later than Wed., April 4th to include their names in the bulletin.

Lilies, plants or bouquets will be gratefully received at the church on Saturday morning after 9. After our Easter service, we hope you will take your floral gifts with you - to your home or perhaps, to bring a smile to another.

WILMOT SENIORS: Please come out for our next gathering on Tuesday, March 20th at 1:30 p.m. in the parlour. Our special guest will be our very own Peter Curtis who be joining us to tell us all about his adventure Trekking in Nepal! As usual we will enjoy a lovely lunch, this month provided by Group 2. See you there.

YOU CAN HELP! Several people from the Wilmot Community will be traveling to Cuba for a special event in early April. This event is a recognition event by the Cuban Government for Churches and groups who have participated in Community support roles over the past several years. The Wilmot family has generously donated to the needs in Cuba and we are asking for your continued support with this trip. The following is a list of items that we would like to take with us and make available to the people in Cuba. The needs include, sewing notions, pain medicines, first aid supplies, personal cares and hygiene products, small music instruments, music instruments spare parts, sheet music, and monetary donations. Thank you for your continued support. Your donations should be left with Norm Laverty or Greg Black. If you have any questions please contact Greg or Norm.

DATES TO KEEP IN MIND:



March 25 11:00 Palm Sunday Service
Soup Luncheon

March 29 6:00 Maundy Thursday Service (at St. Paul's)

March 30 11:00 Good Friday Service "The Cry of the Whole Congregation"

March 31 7:30 "Stabat Mater" – F'ton Symphony Orchestra and
Choral Society – Wilmot United Church

MARCH 21: Gibson Memorial United Church will be hosting a "Stuffed Pork Loin Dinner" on Wednesday, March 21st 4 – 6 p.m. Adults \$14. Please call 457-1951 to reserve your tickets.

MARCH 30th: The Fredericton Symphony Orchestra and the Fredericton Choral Society will be presenting Antonin Dvorak's "Stabat Mater" at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 30th at Wilmot United Church. This wonderful work, one of the towering monuments of choral music, is a setting of the 13th century hymn, 'Stabat Mater', which imagines Mary's suffering during Christ's crucifixion. Tickets are available at Read's Newsstand, from choir and orchestra members and at the door.

MARCH 31: The Jim Axelrod Big Little Band, an uptempo blues quartet featuring our own Steven Peacock on guitar, plays Frank's Finer Diner on Saturday, March 31, from 6 to 8 p.m. Come hear songs made famous by Billie Holiday, Ray Charles, Nat King Cole, and Dutch Mason. Cover: \$10 (cash only, please). Plan to arrive early for a good seat.

LENTEN CARBON FEST - WEEK OF MARCH 19

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: Join with millions of others around the world this evening - March 24 and turn off your lights for one hour, beginning at 8:30 pm. Get together with friends for a candlelight dinner, go for an evening walk. Check out the website - <http://www.wwf.ca/events/earthhour/>

Sixth Sunday March 25: 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.

All You Need Is Love!

Our gifts for Mission & Service are making a difference in communities across Canada. Let us hear the impact one community ministry is having.

The Jane Finch neighbourhood has been painted as one of the toughest areas of Toronto. While there are many instances of violence, especially rampant gun violence, there is also a lot of love. The community bands together to make a better place for their children, and at the centre is the Jane Finch Community Ministry. The ministry works with partners to encourage youth to discover that there is a brighter future for them beyond joining a gang.

Community Minister Barry Rieder has been at the Jane Finch ministry for over 22 years. He marvels at the privilege of being able to walk with the community, and he shares how he loves being able to see children grow from babies into youth and young adults.

The community ministry invests in youth through literacy programs, scholarships, and advocacy with the Toronto Police Service. One program is the Unity Barbecue. Founded by community member Andrea Tabner, it brings together members of rival gangs and the Toronto Police as a way to demonstrate unity in the community.

With 110 nationalities and over 70 mother tongues spoken in the neighbourhood, coming together as a community is often challenging. Through educational programming, gatherings, and advocacy, the Jane Finch Community Ministry offers hope to youth and community members for a better way of life.

We are called to love our neighbours! Your gifts for Mission & Service show that love every day at Jane Finch Community Ministry. Thank you for your ongoing gifts, and if you have not given, you are encouraged to make giving to Mission & Service a regular part of your life of faith.

THIS WEEK AT WILMOT

March 18 - 24

TODAY:

LENT FIVE

- 9:30 a.m. ADULT BIBLE CONVERSATION – Board Room
11:00 a.m. WORSHIP & S.S.
12:00 p.m. COFFEE & CONVERSATION
12:00 p.m. LENTEN DISCUSSION – Parlour. Plight of Palestinian Children
That's No Way to Treat a Child" - Ruth Breen

Mon, Mar. 19:

- 6:30 p.m. LEGAL ADVICE CLINIC – various rooms
6:45 p.m. TOASTMASTERS – Board Room

Tues, Mar. 20:

- 1:30 p.m. WILMOT SENIORS - Parlour
6:30 p.m. SPANISH CLASS – Board Room
7:00 p.m. STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE - Parlour

Wed. Mar. 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. Mar. 22:

- 9:30 a.m. QUILTING and FELLOWSHIP - Parlour
1:00 p.m. WRITERS GROUP - Parlour
6:30 p.m. HANDBELL CHOIR PRACTICE
7:30 p.m. CHOIR PRACTICE

Sat. Mar. 24:

- 10:00 a.m. TOY LIBRARY
1:00 p.m. "MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER" - Parlour
6:00 p.m. DROP-IN CENTRE

Sun. Mar. 25:

PALM SUNDAY/SOUP LUNCHEON

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

