



WILMOT UNITED CHURCH

February 25, 2018

Lent Two

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 Rev. Rose-Hannah Gaskin

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Organ Prelude: Lenten Supplication (Dittrich)

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

Welcome to the Church

Lenten Candle Liturgy:

One: Last Sunday we put out the first candle, reminding us of temptations which draw us away from God. Today we will put out our second candle, as we think about those times when we have not trusted fully in God's promises.

All: Today we think of Abraham and Sarah who trusted in God's promise that they would have many descendants. When Isaac was born, he became a child of the covenant, as Abraham and Sarah had promised. Our baptism makes us children of the covenant, also.

One: We extinguish the second candle as we reflect on the promises made at baptism and how we sometimes fail to live up to our calling as God's covenant people. We have too often trusted in our own strength. *(Second candle is extinguished.)* Let us pray:

All: O God, we confess that we have put our hope in so many things.

Help us to focus ourselves and put our trust in you. Give us strength

to live up to the promises we have made as your covenant people.

May your constant love be with us as we put our trust in you.

Amen.

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer:

Sarai...Sarah.

Abram...Abraham.

God...I Am.

What's in a name?

Baptizer.

Elijah.

A Prophet...

the Christ!

What's in a name?

Christian.

One of The Way.

Jesus follower.

Disciple.

What's in a name?

Quite a bit.

Relationship.

Identity.

Promise.

Then, whatever you name yourself,
whomever you may be,
come to this place
and meet the One
who is both Nameless
and Name-Above-All.

We come to worship God!

Let us pray:

**God of many names,
whose love surrounds
all creation—
thank you.**

**For this walk of life,
and all we meet on it,
for the days and the nights,
and for your presence
in it all—
thank you.**

**Help us to share our burdens
and our joys,
with you and with each other,
knowing that you are our God
and we are your people,
forever. Amen.**

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

*** Opening Hymn: We Praise You, O God**

VU #218

Time with the Young and the Young at Heart

Rev. E. Beairsto

*** Hymn: The Lord's Prayer - Debbie Thorne signing**

VU #959

Prayer of Confession:

**Gracious, loving, Creator God,
we come to give you thanks
and to ask for your healing mercy.
As your children, we have sometimes lost
our way by the temptation.
Without you delivering us to your blessed way,
we would be lost.
Help us to stay on your way,
Holy One, so we can be
disciples and live as examples
for everyone we meet.
In the name of our Saviour,
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Love:

Our Holy Creator God
loves all of us, for God is our Maker.
God provides forgiveness for all believers.
We rejoice for our Maker's compassion.
Thanks be to God!

Brenda Duckworth, Wasauksing & Shawanaga First Nation Churches, Parry Sound, ON

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Prayer of Preparation:

Neil Thorne

God has not stopped calling;
God has not stopped speaking.
Let us pray for our understanding
of God's word in our day.

**God of prophets, both ancient and modern,
open our spirits to your voice;
open our hearts to your call;
give us the will and the courage to step up and step forward in faith.
Amen.** *Beth W Johnston, Hantsport P.C., Hantsport, N.S.*

Scripture Reading: Romans 4: 13-25, Mark 8:31-38

Response: This is the witness of Scripture
Thanks be to God.

Anthem: My Soul Doth Magnify (Purifoy)

Reflection Looking Again at Discipleship Rev. R-H Gaskin

*** Hymn:** O Jesus, I Have Promised VU #120

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to The Offering:

Our covenant is lived out through the giving of our selves—
our time, our talent, and our treasure.

May we live the promise of faith this morning,
in part, as we present our morning offering.

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

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:

We ask your blessing, God,
on all who are gathered here and upon these gifts:
for ourselves, for our brothers, sisters, and siblings,
and for the world
so that all may be transformed
and the world may be made new again, through us.
In Jesus' name, we ask it. Amen.

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

Prayers of the People – see back of bulletin

***Hymn:** To Abraham and Sarah VU #634

(as we move to lunch and the AGM)



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

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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 **COFFEE &
CONVERSATION** and the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** in the Dr. G. M.
Young Memorial Hall following the worship service. **Thank you to the
congregation, members of the MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE and
members of Pastoral Health & Care Committee** for providing this time of
refreshments and fellowship.

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).

WEDNESDAY @ WILMOT: Next Sunday the Outreach Committee will accept donations for our Pantry (used at Wednesday at Wilmot). Non-perishable items can be left in the gym. Thank you for your donations! Also, 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.

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

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

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

MAGGIE'S MUFFIN MANIA COOKBOOK is still available! They are available at the church office (Tuesday-Friday) or email Maggie at maggipec16@gmail.com or phone 455-4357, to arrange for a delivery. Great gift idea for any occasion. Support your UCW fundraiser!

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.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE: The Women's Inter-Church Council is having the World Day of Prayer Services for 2018 in the Fredericton Areas. The World Day of Prayers is being prepared by the Women of the Republic of Suriname. The Theme is "All God's Creation is Very Good!" Please come and join us on **Friday, March 2**, with Christians in more than 170 countries around the world and in 2,000 communities across Canada who will gather to learn about, pray, and celebrate in Solidarity with the people of The Republic of Suriname through the World Day of Prayer.

Northside/ Marysville: All Saints Anglican Church, 172 Canada Street, Friday, March 2, at 7 p.m. Storm Date: Sunday, March 4, at 2:30 p.m.

Forest Hill/Lincoln: St. Francis of Assisi, Lincoln Road, Friday, March 2, at 7 p.m. Storm Date: Sunday, March 4, at 2 p.m.

Hanwell/New Maryland: Holy Family Parish Church, 1500 Hanwell Road, Friday, March 2, at 7 p.m. No Storm Date.

Southside: Morning Gate Church, 74 Morning Gate Drive Sunday, March 4, at 2 p.m. No Storm Date.

Contact name and phone number: Debbie Heustis 472-2916.

LENTEN CARBON FAST --- WEEK OF FEBRUARY 26

Monday Pray for those studying for careers in environmental sustainability and for those presently working in this field.

Tuesday Give your dishwasher a day off. Save water and the energy to heat it. Only run it when you have a full load.

Wednesday Use local shops or farmer's markets Your choice reduces the distance that items travel to market, thereby reducing CO2 emissions. Avoid as much as possible foods that have been imported by air. Consider growing some of your own food. You don't need an allotment or even a garden - grow herbs, fruit and vegetables in pots or join others in your community to cultivate gardens together

Thursday Turn off your engine when you stop for a minute or two. In city driving, up to one-third of your fuel can be wasted through idling.

Friday Reduce the number of plastic bags you use by getting a fabric or reusable bag for shopping. Although plastic bags use 70% less plastic than they did 20 years ago, most are still made from polyethylene, a non-degradable plastic.

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

Third Sunday, March 4 Pray for people living in poverty and affected by climate change. Think prayerfully about how we are depleting our resources at an unsustainable rate. Reflect on the facts that the richest 20% of the world's population consumes 80% of the world's resources, and those who contribute least to the causes suffer most from the effects of climate change.

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)

THIS WEEK AT WILMOT

Feb 25 – March 4

TODAY:

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

Mon, Feb. 26:

6:45 p.m.

TOASTMASTERS CLUB – Board Room

Tues, Feb. 27:

6:30 p.m.

SPANISH CLASS – Board Room

7:00 p.m.

BOOK CLUB - Parlour

Wed. Feb. 28:

9:00 a.m.

QUILTING and FELLOWSHIP - Parlour

10:00 a.m.

TOY LIBRARY

1:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS @ WILMOT

6:00 p.m.

AFFIRMING DIVERSITY – Parlour

7:00 p.m.

NA GROUP – Fireside Room

Thurs. Mar. 1:

9:30 a.m.

QUILTING and FELLOWSHIP - Parlour

6:30 p.m.

HANDBELL CHOIR PRACTICE

7:30 p.m.

CHOIR PRACTICE

Fri., Mar. 2:

WORLD DAY OF PRAYERS SERVICES – see notice elsewhere in bulletin

Sat. Mar. 3:

6:00 p.m.

DROP-IN CENTRE

Sun. Mar. 4:

LENT THREE

9:30 a.m.

ADULT BIBLE CONVERSATION – Board Room

11:00 a.m.

WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL

12:00 p.m.

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Prayers of the People:

In the darkness of time,

You created all that lives and breathes.

In the darkness of Mary's womb,

You nurtured the Christ-child, bringer of light.

In the darkness of our world, O God, your spirit sustains us.

O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.

Under the cover of darkness, Magi followed the star to the Christ-child.

O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.

In blessed desert darkness,

Mary and Joseph fled to safety in Egypt with the infant Jesus.

O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.

In quiet darkness,

Dreams emerge, guiding the Holy Family home to Galilee.

O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.

In the stillness of the dark,

we pray for all who need God's presence in a special way –

all who are sick, unemployed,

bereaved, persecuted, or homeless;

all who are demoralized and discouraged,

all whose fear has turned to cynicism,

all whose vulnerability has become bitterness.

O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.

In the embrace of this sanctuary,

We pray for those who are near to our hearts –

Colleagues, partners, parents, children, neighbours, friends.

We thank you God for their presence,

and ask you to bless and protect them in all that we do –

at home, at school, as they travel, as they work, as they play.

O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.

In the serenity of this sacred space, we bring to you, O God,

our fears and concerns, our hopes and our visions.

In your presence, we come face to face with ourselves,

and with the road that lies ahead of us.

In the solitude of the dark times of our lives,

We find expectant hope for the journey.

O God, we know are with us in darkness and in light. Amen.