

M^cCLURE UNITED CHURCH

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United Church

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Rev. Laura Fohse, Rev. Debra Berg, Rev. Dr. Brian Walton

Shirley Blackburn - Music Co-ord, Elin Sletmoen - Pianist

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March 8, 2020

Lent II - Service



PRELUDE

WELCOME & INVITATION

LIFE & WORK OF THE CHURCH: (*Announcements*)

LIGHTING OF PEACE CANDLE

OPENING SONG: “There is Room for All” (#62 MV)

There is room for all in the shadow of God’s wing;

There is room for all, sheltered in God’s love.

And I rejoice and sing,

“My refuge and my rock, in whom I trust.”

There is room for all, there is room for all.

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Peace to you, and blessings from Jesus, the Christ, who has gone before us on the road to life, and who calls us to follow in his way.

Praise to God, who gives us life and hope in Jesus Christ.

- from Douglas Lapp, Alt.

OPENING PRAYER:

Loving God, we give you thanks for the letting go that comes with nightfall and for the renewal of body, mind and spirit that comes from sleep. We wake to a world we didn’t make, into a salvation we didn’t earn. Be with us in our worship now, that with this new day we may receive the guidance, the courage and the spirit to join in your creative activity. Amen.

***HYMN: “This Day God Gives Me” (#410 VU)**

1 This day God gives me strength of high heaven,
sun and moon shining, flame in my hearth,
flashing of lightning, wind in its swiftness,
deeps of the ocean, firmness of earth.

2 This day God sends me strength to sustain me,
might to uphold me, wisdom as guide.
Your eyes are watchful, your ears are listening,
your lips are speaking, Friend at my side.

3 God's way is my way, God's shield is round me,
God's host defends me, saving from ill.
Angels of heaven, drive from me always
all that would harm me, stand by me still.

4 Rising, I thank you, mighty and strong One,
King of creation, giver of rest,
firmly confessing Threeness of Persons,
Oneness of Godhead, Trinity blest.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

O God, you have called us to be a pilgrim people, followers of Jesus. Forgive us when we weary of faith's journey, when we seek security rather than the open road. Forgive us when we reject the risk of discipleship, when we resist changing sinful ways, when we continue in those practices that hurt us, hurt others and hurt your creation. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old has passed away; the new has come.

Let us trust in this mystery

SUNG RESPONSE: "How Deep the Peace" (#95 MV)

**How deep the peace, the confidence,
of those whose wrongs are forgiven.
How deep the peace, the confidence,
of those whose hearts are healed.**

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

THEME CONVERSATION

HYMN: “We Are All One People” (#141 MV)

1. We are all one people, we all come from
one Creation way on high.
We are all one nation under one great sky, you and I.
We are all one people, we are all one colour in her eyes.
2. We are all one people, we all come from
one Creation way on high.
We are all one nation under one great sky, you and I.
We are all one people, we are all one colour in his eyes.
3. We are all one people, we all come from
one Creation way on high.
We are all one nation under one great sky, you and I.
We are all one people, we all are one nation,
we are all one colour if we try.

SCRIPTURE:

Genesis 12:1-4a

Now the Lord said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’

5 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

John 3:1-8

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’ ³Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’ ⁴Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?’ ⁵Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You must be born from above.” ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’

SPECIAL MUSIC:

9:15am “Family of Faith” – Senior Choir

11am “Be Thou My Vision” – Will Arscott

REFLECTION

RESPONSE

THE OFFERING

***HYMN: “Spirit, Open My Heart” (#79 MV)**

Refrain:

**Spirit, open my heart
To the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
In receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.**

1. God, replace my stony heart
With a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
To your grace I now surrender. **R**
2. Write your love upon my heart
As my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
May my living bring you glory.

Refrain:

**Spirit, open my heart
To the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
In receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.**

3. May I weep with those who weep,
Share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
May we welcome one another. **R**

***OFFERTORY: “What Have We to Offer” (#156 W&P)**

What have we to offer? What have we to bring?

Love, ripe with laughter; Hope that we can sing;

Truth that must be spoken;

Justice — somehow. Lay it at the altar now.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come,

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

***HYMN: “To Abraham and Sarah” (#634 VU)**

1 To Abraham and Sarah the call of God was clear,

“Go forth and I will show you a country rich and fair.

You need not fear the journey for I have pledged my word,
that you shall be my people and I will be your God.”

2 From Abraham and Sarah arose a pilgrim race,

dependent for their journey on God’s abundant grace;

and in their heart was written by God this saving word:

“that you shall be my people and I will be your God.”

3 We of this generation on whom God’s hand is laid,

can journey to the future secure and unafraid,

rejoicing in God’s goodness and trusting in this word:

“that you shall be my people and I will be your God.”

***SENDING FORTH AND BLESSING:**

“The Time Has Come” (*William Smith, The Gathering, 2017*)

The time has come for us to leave this care filled place.
The challenges of our lives and world we now embrace.
Rise up, rise up, and start a new your lives with grace.
The love of God magnify your deeds and excite your faith.

POSTLUDE

In the spirit of reconciliation, McClure United Church acknowledges that we gather on Treaty 6 land, which includes the Nêhiyawak (Cree) as original signatories and became the traditional homeland of the Métis Nation. We also acknowledge the contributions of the Dakota and Round Prairie Métis peoples in establishing our city of Saskatoon and we extend our appreciation for the opportunity to live and worship on this beautiful territory.

We also acknowledge that as an Affirming Ministry, we embrace diversity and strive to be a safe place for all people regardless of age, race, gender, culture, education, ability, economic status, marital status, sexual orientation or gender identity.