

Strathearn United Church

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Second
Sunday
of



Our Living Statement... Strathearn United Church is a loving Christian community living by faith and action, communicating through worship, education, fellowship and outreach, greeting the future with hope.

Minister	Rev. Sandy Ferguson
Minister Emeritus	Rev. Dr. Don Mayne
Music Director	Kathryn Wood
Musician	Shannon Hiebert
Office Administrator	Rena Spiess

LECTIONARY READINGS

March 7 (3rd Lent): Exodus 20:1-17, 15-16;
Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

Strathearn United Church welcomes you to our
Morning Worship where all are welcome!
28th of February 2021, Second Sunday of Lent
(Youtube Video Service)

WELCOME & GATHERING

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

“where the cross stands, the resurrection is near.”
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

PRAYER OF APPROACH

One: God be with us, as we continue our journey of Lent. The shadow of the cross lies ahead. We are not sure what it means. Is it a symbol of terror? Is it a symbol of hope? Yet we draw nearer, following the hesitant steps of Your Son. Amen.

HYMN: “O Jesus, I Have Promised” VU120

- 1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain for ever near me, my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.
- 2 O let me feel you near me: the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer and shield my soul from sin.
- 3 O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
now speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul.

- 4 O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you,
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Saviour and my friend.

Words: John Ernest Bode ca. 1866, alt. Music: James William Elliott 1874
Words and Music: Public Domain

A NEW CREED: VU918

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe
in God who has created and is creating, who has
come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and
make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to
celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in
Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice
and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and
risen, our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

The United Church of Canada, General Council 1968, alt.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF
GRACE:**

*"I believe that God's word of grace can also come
through simple, imperfect everyday human love."
Nadia Bolz-Weber*

**All: God, be with us in prayer. We offer to You
our brokenness. We know that there are
moments when we stumble in faith. Yet we
struggle to share them with You. We worry
that Your will condemn us. Forgetting that
with true confession there is grace. God, we
are sorry. (Silence)**

One: God have mercy.

All: Christ have mercy.

One: God have mercy.

The grace of God touches our heart, and as we
are healed let it be an invitation to heal one
another. Let us pray together...

**All: 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, For ever and ever. Amen.**

HYMN: "Why Has God Forsaken Me" VU154

- 1 "Why has God forsaken me?" cried out Jesus from the
cross, as he shared the loneliness
of our deepest grief and loss.
- 2 At the tomb of Lazarus Jesus wept with open grief: grant
us, God, the tears which heal all our pain and unbelief.
- 3 Jesus, as his life expired, placed himself within God's
care: at our dying, Christ, may we
trust the love which conquers fear.
- 4 Mystery shrouds our life and death but we need not be
afraid, for the mystery's heart is Love,
God's great love which Christ displayed.

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WE SHARE IN GOD'S WORD

One: God, Your Word in an invitation. An invitation to share in the story of faith and in doing so become part of the story. Amen.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MARK 8:31-38

One: The Word of God, for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

SERMON

OFFERING INVITATION:

Thank you for supporting Strathearn United Church by maintaining your PAR payments or envelope givings during this time of virtual weekly church services. For new donors or those able to offer further support, you can do so by going to our Facebook page or website at strathearnuc.com and following the link to CanadaHelps.org. When you make a voluntary donation, CanadaHelps will issue you a tax receipt.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world. - Karl Barth

One: God, we gather before You to give thanks in these difficult days. We give thanks for all who are Your light. Who do what they can to bring compassion, hope and justice into the lives of others. Who are willing to reach out and ask, 'what can we do for you?' In silence, God, we bring to You the names of those who have been Your light to us... (Silence)... God, we bring our prayers to You. Our prayers for a better world. Our prayers that we will have the strength,

courage, and compassion to embrace and enact. Your vision of how this can be a better world. We pray for a world ravaged by COVID-19 and the ways it has changed so much of what was once familiar. We pray for those who struggle in these times of economic, political and social turmoil. For those who oppress and yearn for justice. And God, we pray for Your church that we may be a light to those who struggle. And God we come to You with the prayers of our hearts. For those who we know who struggle with illness of the mind, body and spirit. For those who are alone. For those who yearn for connection. These names we bring to you (Silence)... Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "Jesus Calls Us"

VU562

- 1 Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult
of our life's wild restless sea,
day by day his clear voice sounding,
saying, "Christian, follow me."
- 2 Long ago apostles heard it by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for Jesus' sake.
- 3 Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."
- 4 In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."

5 Jesus calls us: by your mercies,
Saviour, may we hear your call,
give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander 1852. Music: William Herbert Jude 1874.

Words and Music: Public Domain

SENDING FORTH:

One: The cross awaits us. A symbol of death that becomes a sign of new life. A challenge to our expectations of faith. A question that haunts us, what does it mean to follow Jesus? Amen.

PRAYER CYCLE OF THE WEEK

Church Family: Kent & Janice Coulter & Family,
Elizabeth Coulter, Jim & Sharon Croome & Family,
Jim & Vicki Crowell, Betty-Anne Cunningham

Within Strathearn United: Finance Committee

Northern Spirit Region: Smoky Lake United Church,
Wahstao Pastoral Charge

World Council of Churches:

Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Update from the Official Board:

- We are still closed to indoor activities & gatherings.
- Following guidelines from the United Church of Canada, and due to restrictions, our Annual Congregational Meeting is postponed and the date will be determined at the May Board Meeting. The 2020 Annual Report & Financial Report will be available in later March.

ANNOUNCEMENTS continued...

Emails, Links & News: Check us out on Youtube, Facebook or www.strathearnuc.com.

Our Renters and Groups: We have no custodian at this time. Washrooms are closed. If you need to access rooms and supplies, please call the office first.

World Day of Prayer, March 5, 2021:

The Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada made a one hour video service on Youtube for World Day of Prayer 2021. I will send the service and info out on March 5. The service is created by the women of the Republic of Vanuatu (country in Oceania).

Mission & Outreach: "28 Days of Giving":

Our Outward Journey campaign supports the Edmonton Food Bank. Today is the last day of giving. We have collected \$1231 to date. Thank you for your generosity!

Calendar:

March 5: World Day of Prayer

March 7: Zoom Communion, Noon

March 17: St. Patrick's Zoom Service, 7:00 pm

March 24: Official Board Meeting, 7:00 pm (Zoom)

March 28: Palm Sunday (Youtube Service)

April 1: Maundy Thursday (No Service)

April 2: Good Friday (Youtube Service) /Office Closed

April 4: Easter (Youtube) / Zoom Communion, Noon

April 5: Easter Monday / Office Closed

April 21: Official Board Meeting, 7:00 pm (Zoom)