

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH
February 23, 2020
Week Four:
Looking with Gratitude

It's a
wonder-full
life



*Growing and Deepening our Spiritual Lives in
an Affirming and Inclusive Community*

Welcome to St. David's United Church

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Sunday, February 23 2020

Rev. Peggy McDonagh presiding with the people of St. David's

We gather as a Christ-Infused Community

A warm welcome is extended to all. Regardless of your age, stage, gender, sexual identity, or how great or small you feel your faith is we each bring something of ourselves to this place. Come as you are -- and be.

Prior to the service the Affirming candle was lit to affirm that all humanity and creation must be respected and valued. The Treaty 7/Metis Region 3 candle was lit to show respect for the land and to affirm our continued commitment to live into right relations with our indigenous brothers and sisters.

SEED OF MEDITATION

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." – John 10: 10b

GATHERING: COMPASSION

(This is the last week of the Wonder-Full Life series through which we have taken an honest and compassionate look back, a look within, a look outward and a look out with gratitude regarding our relationship with money and our money practices.

It is our hope that this series has enable you to be at peace with that relationship and to "invest" your time, talent, and money in generous ways and with deep gratitude for all the makes this a Wonder-Full life.)

Prelude

Improvisation

Welcome and Lighting the Christ Candle

ILLUMINATING THE SHADOWS

(Threshold Moment)

Leader: In this final week of our series, we look with an attitude of gratitude at the ways. . .

Be Thou my Vision vs. 1 VU #
**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, they presence my light.**

We light this flame to affirm that where there is light,
there is understanding;
where there is understanding,
there is compassion;
where there is compassion,
there is possibility;
where there is possibility;
there is transformation.

Holy and Living God,
transform our fears into awe-inspiring wonder.
**Open us to this light,
and to the rich possibilities that life brings
and express our deepest gratitude for all that makes
for a “wonder-full” life.**

Opening Hymn

Let All Things Now Living

VU #242

- 1 Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night;
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into Light.
- 2 By law God enforces, the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise:
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

Connecting – Passing the Peace

Leader: Hear the Good News! . . .

As our greeting I invite you to greet on another with a sign of God's peace.

Gathering people together singing:

A Wonder-Full Life Song

**To be full of love,
To be full of grace,
To be full of peace
Is a wonder full life!**

**Giving others love
Giving others grace
Giving others peace
Is a wonder full life!**

PROCLAIMING: CURIOSITY

(We become curious—full of “wonder-ing”—we continue to explore how our faith story invites us to live with gratitude)

Anthem

Cantate Domino - Jens Klimek

Translation: Hallelujah. Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints. Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp. For the Lord taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.

Scripture

Acts: 4 32-35

Reader: At the heart of our relationship to money is living and giving with gratitude. . .

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

After reading:

This is the Word of God for the people of the Spirit

Thanks be to God

Conversations about Gratitude

Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth VU #226 (Tune VU #81)

- 1 For the beauty of the earth,
 for the glory of the skies,
 for the love which from our birth
 over and around us lies,
 God of all, to you we raise
 this our hymn of grateful praise.

- 2 For the beauty of each hour
 of the day and of the night,
 hill and vale, and tree and flower,
 sun and moon, and stars of light, R

- 3 For the joy of human love,
 brother, sister, parent, child,
 friends on earth, and friends above,
 for all gentle thoughts and mild, R

- 4 For each perfect gift sublime
 to our race so freely given,
 graces human and divine,
 flowers of earth and buds of heaven, R

RESPONDING: CREATIVITY

(This part of the service helps us to “wonder” in a different way. We invite a state of awe at the abundance of our lives by noticing the “rich” beauty around us, the presence of “treasured” people, and new and unexpected “gems” that cross our paths. We commit to engage our creativity to multiply good in the world)

The Wonder of It All: Prayers

Thank you, Lord

Thank you, God,

Thank you, God,

Thank you, God,

I just want to thank you.

Thank you, Lord,

Lord's Prayer

Announcements

Offering Witness

Offertory

Keep Yo' Lamps - Traditional Spiritual/ arr. Rosephanye Powell

Reception of Offering and Dedication Song

Be Thou My Vision vs. 3

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;

Thou mine inheritance, now and always;

Thou and thou only, first in my heart,

great God of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

Offering Prayer

SENDING FORTH: COMMITMENT

(Having walked with God in "looking" into our heart's relationship to money, we commit to take the practices out into the world and our daily lives with renewed compassion, curiosity and creativity.)

Sending Song

What a Wonderful World Louis Armstrong

I see trees of green, red roses too

I see them bloom for me and you

And I think to myself what a wonderful world

I see skies of blue and clouds of white

The bright blessed day, the dark sacred night

And I think to myself what a wonderful world

The colors of the rainbow so pretty in the sky

Are also on the faces of people going by

I see friends shaking hands saying how do you do

They're really saying I love you.

I hear babies cry; I watch them grow

They'll learn much more than I'll ever learn

And I think to myself what a wonderful world.

And I think to myself what a wonderful world.

Benediction

Postlude

Tuba Tune – C.S. Lang

**Growing and Deepening our Spiritual
Lives through Worship & Nurture**

February 26

6:00 Pancake Supper

7:00 Ash Wednesday Worship

March 2 – Lent 1

Entering the Passion of Jesus

(see info at end of worship folder)

The flowers in the sanctuary today are placed in memory of
Vern McKeague

“EDGE – Action and The Future of St. David’s”

In the spirit of continuing communication, action in the definition of the Future of St. David’s United Church we invite you to a discussion group.

Everyone is welcome. This meeting will be held in the foyer on the second Sunday of the month from February to June 2020. The EDGE Committee (Colin Outtrim, Deb Charnuski and Peggy McDonagh) will host 20-minute discussion after the worship service.

**THANKS TO THOSE ASSISTING WITH OUR SUNDAY
WORSHIP EXPERIENCE**

Greeters.....February Sacred Service Team
UshersFebruary Sacred Service Team
Projection.....PSALT Team
Reader.....Betsy Woolner
MusicAngel Voices

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ENTERING THE PASSION OF JESUS
Lent Series

**SYNOPSIS AND SCRIPTURES FOR ASH WEDNESDAY AND
LENT 1**

The events of Christ’s Passion, which take place during the last week of Jesus’ life, often don’t receive enough time in our worship and study. These stories are important to our faith journey and our identity as followers of Jesus. And yet we often move too quickly from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday with little time to take in the dramatic story of that last week. Throughout the six weeks of Lent we will “freeze-frame” moments in Holy Week so we might put ourselves in the picture, thereby “Entering the Passion of Jesus.” How might taking a closer look at the ancient story open us to deeper conviction for our role in its ongoing message?

Ash Wednesday — Preparing the Canvas

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit.” — Psalm 51:10-12

So much of life happens around us, even to us, that we take little time to notice. The amount of stimulation and news and ideas and expectations coming at us can outweigh our ability to process all of it and so we stop looking too closely, we filter in order to survive. While this is necessary, it can also dull our senses for seeing the things that matter deeply. In this season of Lent, we will intentionally put a “frame” around the scenes of Jesus’ last week and frame our own lives in a way that we can see what really matters. In the Ash Wednesday service, we will ready ourselves for this journey by preparing the canvas of our lives, reapplying a base coat on which to create new works of art.

Week 1 — The Parade: Risking Reputation

“[The disciples] brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and [Jesus] sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!’” — Matthew 21:7-9 (with references to Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, John 12: 12-19)

Jesus’ ride into Jerusalem at the beginning of Holy Week was full of risk. Rather than a nice impromptu celebration, it can be seen for the carefully planned and significantly symbolic event that would rub those in power the wrong way. In a moment already filled with tension, this “victory parade” had many implications, and as we know, many consequences. We will stop the action just at the beginning of the parade and dwell in the story. We will think about what we risk in the name of our faith.

Please join us on this spiritual journey through Lent to see how Jesus' actions challenge us to risk living our faith fully so that love, justice, truth, and peace rise up among us and in all the world.