

**Kindred Spirits Worship
March 23, 2025
Third Sunday of Lent**

PRELUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND AND TREATIES

One:

Called to live with respect in Creation
as Indigenous, Métis, Settler and Newcomer people,
we acknowledge that the land on which we worship, work, learn and serve,
and the water which sustains life on this land,
is of God, Creator,
and in the farthest reaches of memory
was entrusted to the original peoples who walked this land,
and to their descendants.

One:

With the coming of colonizers,
treaties were made,
but again and again the colonizers disregarded and broke the treaties,
causing grave and lasting harm to the historic caregivers of the land,
to the generations that followed them,
and to the land itself.

All:

**Called to action for Truth and Reconciliation,
we who gather here on Treaty One territory
commit ourselves to finding faithful ways
of honouring the treaties, the land and one another
in a spirit of openhearted respect.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING STATEMENT

As we continue to explore the origins and development of our United Church over 100 years, we see varied strands of thought and action. Presbyterians appealed to those who valued education, organization, rules, and what we have come to call the “work ethic”. Methodists reached out to the working classes, were more attuned to a personal experience of faith, and many championed “the social Gospel”. Congregationalists treasured freedom, and congregational autonomy. Of course these are stereotypes. These characteristics were embraced by each of the denominations at times. Of course, all of our ancestors made conversion of non Christians to protestant Christianity a primary focus. Transcending all these things, were attitudes of compassion, and judgement; who was worthy of concern, and who not. Our forebears were conditioned by their cultures, just as we are.

Let us Pray:

Creator God, we gather acknowledging the blessings that are ours. We confess that we are unsure how we must act to share blessings with others. We are unclear who is our neighbour. As we follow Jesus on his last journeys may we find guidance for our lives in the midst of the challenges and uncertainties of this time. Open us to be present with all who struggle, all who are vulnerable, all who are our brothers and sisters.

AMEN

HYMN: VU# 268 Bring Many Names

MOMENT TO PONDER

I don't remember exactly where it came from, but in a study or counselling session a leader asked “What are your yearnings?” by that they didn't mean world peace or an end to disease, but what does your heart long for? Truth be told, most of us have so much that it is hard to imagine anything we could need or want. We

are so used to being self sufficient, that it is almost painful to admit we are missing anything. Yet we know those who long for someone to love, or a safe place to live, or a cup of clean water. There is a haunting hymn based on Psalm 42 that captures the essence of yearning.

HYMN: VU p. 766 As The Deer Pants for the Water

SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 55:1-9

Luke 13:1-9

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Come to the Water"

REFLECTION:

HYMN: VU# 460 All Who Hunger

OFFERING INVITATION

**Doxology VU # 544 In Gratitude and Humble Trust
(Forest Green)**

Let us Pray:

**Holy One, may we bring the best fruits of our
lives to you, share in your mission to bless all
of your children, and work to preserve and
enhance all parts of your creation.**

AMEN

LENTEN PRAYERS AND CANDLELIGHTING (Centering Music)

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

**LORD'S PRAYER (VU # 916 "Our Father-Mother, who is in the heavens.....)
AMEN**

HYMN: VU# 567 Will You Come and Follow Me

Commissioning

Choral Blessing: MV# 222 May the Peace of God Be Your Peace

Postlude