

**Kindred Spirits Worship**  
**March 9, 2025**  
**First 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**

Today we begin the journey of Lent. We follow Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem. This spring we are also moving toward the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Church. We value and treasure the church that has nurtured us. We also know that as a church we have made mistakes that have harmed others. During Lent we still remember the church, the good, and the not so good, our pride and our embarrassment. Jerusalem is a place of many difficult memories. Let us seek hope in our own places of challenge and hardship.

**Let us Pray:**

**Creator God, We enter this season in a world of broken promises, hatred of one another, confusion about our place in the world. 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# 108 Throughout these Lenten Days and Nights**

### **MOMENT TO PONDER**

Many years ago, the prominent ethical theologian Reinhold Niebuhr wrote about Corporate Sin. Though my understanding of his work is imperfect, he meant that practices of racism, and economic privilege and exclusion, and what we would call colonialism were rooted systemically in the political, social, and economic systems of our culture. It is tempting to believe that we have nothing to do with the biases and the unjust actions of our forebears. Yet, many of us have inherited privilege and blessing. Our churches have always had to work to overcome our tendency to think of ourselves as “special” , more moral, uniquely blessed. Lent offers us a time to practice humility, accept responsibility for our failures, and to give ourselves away for the sake of all in our community.

**HYMN: VU# 115 Jesus, Tempted in the Desert**

**SCRIPTURE:**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Luke 4:1-13

**CHOIR ANTHEM: “Into the Woods”**

**REFLECTION:**

**HYMN: MV# 79 Spirit Open My Heart**

**OFFERING INVITATION AND PRAYER**

**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# 633 Bless Now O God the Journey**

**Commissioning**

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

**Postlude**