

**Kindred Spirits Worship
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 15, 2026**

PRELUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND AND TREATIES

One:

Called to live with respect in Creation
as Indigenous, Métis, Settler, and Newcomer peoples,
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 treaties were broken,
causing deep 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
and the homeland of the Red River Metis
commit ourselves to faithful ways
of honoring the treaties, the land, and one another
in a spirit of open-hearted respect.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL OPENING MV#12 Come Touch Our Hearts

OPENING STATEMENT

Today, on this Fourth Sunday in Lent, we reflect on God's guidance and the call to live as people of light. Psalm 23 reminds us that God is our shepherd who walks with us through every season of life. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus calls us the salt of the earth and the light of the world, inviting our lives to shine with love and goodness. The letter to the Ephesians reminds us that we are called to live as children of light.

As we continue our Lenten journey, may we open our hearts to God's guidance and allow Christ's light to shine through our lives.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God calls us to walk in the light.

All: We come seeking the light of Christ.

One: The Lord is our shepherd who guides our path.

All: We trust in God's loving care.

One: Jesus calls us to be the light of the world.

All: May our lives shine with God's love.

One: Let us worship God.

All: With open hearts and grateful spirits.

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and loving God, you see us more clearly than we see ourselves. You know our struggles, our fears, and our hopes. Open our eyes today so that we may see your truth. Shine your light into the places of our lives that need healing and renewal. Help us to walk as children of light, reflecting your love, justice, and compassion in the world.

Guide us on this Lenten journey and draw us closer to you. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

HYMN: VU#747 The Lord's My Shepherd

MOMENT TO PONDER

We often underestimate the small ways that faith can shape the world.

Jesus tells his followers that they are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Salt may seem small, but it brings flavor and preserves what is good. Light may begin as a small flame, but it can brighten even the darkest room.

These images remind us that every act of kindness, every word of encouragement, and every effort to bring justice and compassion into the world matters.

The letter to the Ephesians reminds us that once we lived in darkness, but now we live in the light of Christ. This light is not something we keep to ourselves. It is meant to shine in our relationships, in our communities, and in the way we care for others.

Psalm 23 reminds us that God walks with us through every part of life. Because God guides us, we are able to walk with courage and hope.

Lent invites us to reflect on how we live our faith each day. When we allow God to guide us, our lives become signs of hope and light in the world.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 5:13-16

Ephesians 5:8–14

LENTEN CANDLE MOVEMENT – All

Loving Creator, thank you for guiding us on this wilderness journey. We are seeking a new life in a world of trouble. Grant that through Jesus' teachings we may find a way even in the darkest times. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM "Lenten Prayer"

REFLECTION

HYMN: VU#371 Open My Eyes, That I May See

OFFERING INVITATION

God calls each of us to live as children of light. When we share our gifts; our time, our compassion, and our resources, we participate in God's work of healing and hope in the world.

In gratitude for all that God has given us, let us offer our gifts for the ministry of Christ

DOXOLOGY VU#542 We Give You But Your Own

PRAYER OF DEDICATION - All

Generous God, you have blessed us with gifts beyond measure. Receive these offerings as signs of our gratitude and trust. Use them to bring light where there is darkness, hope where there is despair, and love where there is need. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CENTERING MUSIC

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - All

Loving God, you are the shepherd who guides us and the light that leads us forward.

We pray for our world, where many still walk in darkness; places where war continues, where injustice wounds communities, and where fear divides people.

We pray for peace in regions facing conflict, including Ukraine, the tensions between Israel, Iran, and the United States, and the struggles between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Bring wisdom to leaders and courage to those working for peace.

We pray for those who cannot see hope in their lives today; those facing illness, loneliness, grief, or uncertainty. Shine your light upon them and surround them with care.

We pray for this congregation, that we may live as people of light, welcoming the stranger, caring for the vulnerable, and sharing the love of Christ with our neighbors.

We lift before you the names spoken aloud and those held in the silence of our hearts...

(Silence)

Trusting in your grace and mercy, we pray together in the words Jesus taught us.

Let us sing together the Lord's prayer...

HYMN MV#27 Creator God, You Gave Us Life

COMMISSIONING

Go now as people who walk in the light. Let your lives shine with compassion, justice, and love. Be salt for the earth and light for the world.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always. Amen.

CHORAL BLESSING MV#214 – May God's Sheltering Wings

POSTLUDE