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*Our Mission...*

*to be an accepting Christian community dedicated to living, sharing and teaching the Word of God.*

*We respect all aspects of people including race, ethnicity, gender expression, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, age, religion, mental wellness, and ability.*

First Sunday in Lent  
February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

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***Bold print** indicates a congregational response.*

## **WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY**

### **WELCOME and ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND**

*We acknowledge that we meet and work in Treaty 1 land, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree and Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Metis nation. We are thankful for these first inhabitants and we commit to working together towards justice, truth and reconciliation.*

### **THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

*In Christian teaching and tradition, each Sunday is believed to be a little Easter, a weekly celebration of the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. So we light this candle, affirming that Christ is indeed the light of the world, our hope and our salvation. There is no other in whom we place our trust.*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
**try me and know my thoughts!**  
See if there is any wicked way in me,  
**and lead me in the way everlasting.***

**PRELUDE:** #664 VU – **“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”** ~ words by Joseph Medlicott Scriven  
(Words reproduced & music played with permission under license #A-620529) ~Rev. Tanis Kolisnyk

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer.**
- 2 Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?**

**We should never be discouraged;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful,  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**3 Are we weak and heavy laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Christ the Saviour is our refuge;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do our friends despise, forsake us?  
Are we tempted to despair?  
Jesus' strength will shield our weakness,  
and we'll find new courage there.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Gracious God,  
you led your people through the wilderness  
and brought them to the promised land.  
So guide us, that, following our Saviour,  
we may walk through the wilderness of this world  
toward the glory of the world to come,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
One God, now and forever. Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THE CONFESSION

**God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost.  
We confess that we have strayed from you  
and turned aside from your way.  
We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained,  
and great when we are small.  
We have failed in love, neglected justice and ignored the truth.  
Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin.  
Return us to paths of righteousness  
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS: *Nancy Cosway*

Hebrew Scripture

**Genesis 9: 8-17**

*Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with*

*you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'*

## The Psalm

Psalm 25: 1-10

*To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.  
O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.  
Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.  
Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.  
Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.  
Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!  
Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.  
He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.  
All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.*

RESPONSE: *This is the word of God.*

**Thanks be to God**

## The Gospel

Mark 1: 9-15

~Rev. Don Johnson

*In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'  
And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.*



## THE BLESSING

*The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace,  
this day and always. Amen.*

## POSTLUDE: #238 VU – “How Great Thou Art”

*~words by Carl Gustav Boberg*

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*~Rev. Tanis Kolisnyk*

- 1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed.  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!**
- 2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze. R**
- 3 But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
he bled and died to take away my sin. R**
- 4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
and there proclaim, 'My God, how great thou art!' R**