



Welcome to worship!

February 21, 2021

Second Sunday in Lent

***A joint online Zoom worship Service with
Claremont, Fairbank & Goodwood United
Churches & friends.***

Worship Leaders: Pastor Steven Loweth, DLM & Rev. Lionel Ketola, BA, M Div.
Onelicense # A-723979 CCLI # 11550809

Musicians: With thanks to the Masked Bandits of Claremont United Church

[We Joyfully Gather in God's Presence](#)

Words of Welcome

Lighting the Christ Candle

There was a man named Jesus, who brought hope and healing to all he met.
And he said **"I am the light of the World"**.

Acknowledgement of the Land

As we begin our worship, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land where each of us is gathered today. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all Indigenous peoples on Turtle Island.

God of justice, help us to embody your call to reconciliation with our First Nations in tangible, loving ways. Amen.

Introit: God Be in My Head VU 430

Video

**God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at mine end, and at my departing.**

Opening Prayer

Let us pray:

God of dispossession

you rebuke our refusal to give up our idols.

Send us with Jesus on the way of the cross,

that we might lose our love of the world's death-dealing ways,

and take the risk of life;

through Jesus Christ, companion on the way. Amen.

Opening Song: VU # 567 Will You Come and Follow Me

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

This month – as we mark Black History month in the United Church of Canada, we recognize people of African and Caribbean descent and we lament anti-Black racism and violence.

We confess those times when we have

chosen our own privilege over the needs of others

chosen our own worldview over the experiences of others

chosen our own safety over the struggles of others.

Hear us, O God, as we confess our sins.

Transform us into a people of love and justice for our world. *[time of silence]*

ASSURANCE OF GRACE:

Hear the Good News! God is our refuge and our comfort.

God is our strength and our center.

God's grace and forgiveness are never ending.

God set us free from our past,

and sends us on a path of new life and new beginnings.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

We Open our Hearts to the Spirit's Voice

One: Whether you take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth or story, listen now to these words for the meaning they hold in your lives today.

All: May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder, as we ponder the meaning of these words in our lives.

A Reading from the Book of Genesis (17:1-16)

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him,

⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding; and I will be their God." ⁹God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. ¹⁰This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹You shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹²Throughout your generations every male among you shall be circumcised when he is eight days old, including the slave born in your house and the one bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring. ¹³Both the slave born in your house and the one bought with your money must be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection: Rev. Lionel

Song: VU 701 What does the Lord Require of You

The Holy Gospel According to Mark (8:31-38)

³¹Then [Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection: Pastor Steve

Hymn of the Day: I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Prayers of the People

Turning our hearts to God, who is gracious and merciful, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *Silence*

God of the wilderness, empower your church to be a voice of hope for all who struggle in the wilderness of fear and despair. Assure us of your presence and give us confidence to proclaim your good news to all. God in your love, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for creation. Show your glory in deserts and on mountaintops. Nourish gardens and orchards and bless those who tend them. Forgive us for our desire to dominate creation instead of lovingly caring for it. God in your love, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations. Liberate leaders and governments from the temptation to exercise unjust domination over whom they are called to lead and serve. God in your love, **hear our prayer.**

God of the wilderness, give us a new vision of your healing power among us. Restore hope to those who struggle with depression, anxiety, loss or despair during this time of pandemic. Bless those who bring mercy, care and healing to all who suffer. God in your love, **hear our prayer.**

At this time we remember all who have asked us for our prayers:

(Intercessions are now offered)

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love; through Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray *(as we sing together)*:

Sung Lord's Prayer VIDEO

A Slice of Pie:

A Video Message from the joint Affirming Committee of Claremont United Church and Goodwood United Church (Video: Margaret Sevier-Taylor)

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray:

Loving God,

We offer to you what you have first given us –

our selves, our time, our possessions – signs of your gracious love.

Receive these gifts for the sake of the One

who emptied himself for us – Jesus our brother. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: VU 236 Now Thank We All Our God Music: *The Masked Bandits*

Blessing and Commissioning

And Jesus began to teach his disciples
that the Son of Humanity must suffer,
be rejected and killed,
and after three days rise again.

As a disciple of Jesus
may you walk the way of the cross
with courage and faith, always trusting in God's presence.

And as we journey,
May God bless to us
the earth beneath our feet,
May God bless to us
the path along which we tread;
May God bless to us
the people we are called to meet. Amen.

Church Announcements

PIE Day is coming!! – Sunday March 14, 2021

Check out the website www.pieday.ca

Affirming PIE Day!



www.pieday.ca





Pledges for Plumpies

A Lent Fundraiser
for UNICEF



What are Plumpies?



Each donation of \$10.00 will provide a child suffering from malnutrition with enough Plumpy'Nut for one week. Plumpy'Nut is a "miracle food" – a paste made of peanuts, powdered milk, sugar and oil, with added vitamins and minerals. Three 500 calorie packs a day can restore a malnourished child to health in a few weeks. Plumpy'Nut requires no added water or refrigeration, can be eaten with fingers and is tolerated by malnourished bodies. All monies raised will go to UNICEF to purchase and distribute this edible miracle.

How does this Fundraiser work?

Decorate a jar or basket for Lent to put your Pledges in. Each Sunday of Lent, write down what you have pledged to donate to Plumpies for that week and put it in your Lent jar / basket. **At Easter, add up your pledges and send your donation** to your congregation. All monies will be forwarded to UNICEF Canada's Plumpy'Nut program.

How to send your money: Send your donation to the church, or send your donation by interac e-transfer to:

for Goodwood United Church: goodwoodtreasurer@gmail.com

for Claremont United Church: treasurercuc@outlook.com

Goodwood United Church – Weekly Programs & Meetings

Online Community Check-in: Tuesdays at 10:00 AM, on Zoom. Join us for an opportunity to connect and find supportive community through our regular weekly check-in meetings. At the conclusion of our check-in time, we move into our weekly “Conversations about Life / Not your Typical Bible Study” group. Feel free to join us!

The Knit-Wits: Wednesdays at 10:00 am. This is **Goodwood United Church’s weekly ZOOM group** for Knitting, crochet and other needle craft. This group facilitates our congregation’s **Prayer Shawl Ministry**. They will keep you in stitches! To find out how to connect with this group on Zoom, contact Shirley Baster.

Book Study: Fridays at 10:00 am on Zoom – See Below for details of our Lent Study.

Affirming Committee Meeting: Thursday February 18, at 2:00 pm, the Goodwood and Claremont United Churches Affirming Ministry Committee will meet on Zoom. Debbie Andersen will send out the Zoom link information.

Annual General Meeting: Thursday March 11, at 7:00 pm on ZOOM. A special Zoom Link will be sent out for it.

CLAREMONT UNITED CHURCH – Weekly Programs and Meetings

Wednesdays @ 12:00 noon – Join us for a Zoom “drop-in” meeting. Resumes Wed January 6th. Everyone is invited to join us for these “Virtual Brock Café” Zoom gatherings to connect with our congregational community. ! Thank you to Debbie Andersen who will host this coming week’s gathering, while Rev. Lionel is away on study leave.

Book Study: Fridays at 10:00 am on Zoom (see below for details on our Lent Study)

Affirming Committee Meeting: Thursday February 18, at 2:00 pm, the Goodwood and Claremont United Churches Affirming Ministry Committee will meet on Zoom. Debbie Andersen will send out the Zoom link information.

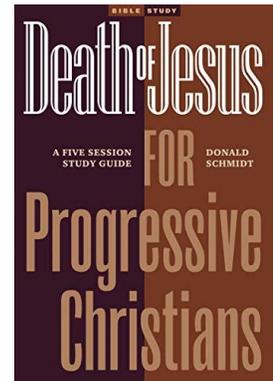
Annual General Meeting: Wed March 3, 7:30 pm. A special Zoom link will be sent out for it.

Join our joint **BOOK STUDY GROUP** for all 3 Churches & friends:
Friday Mornings at 10 AM on Zoom.

Join our Lent Book Study (5 weeks)

Beginning the first week in Lent (Friday Feb 19th) we will read:
The Death of Christ for Progressive Christians, by Donald Schmidt.

You can order your copy through: www.woodlakebooks.com



Join us for Worship on YOUTUBE

Join us for worship LIVE, Sunday Mornings at 10:30 am on YOUTUBE,
or watch recordings of our Sunday service anytime during the week.

See this Link (Fairbank United's YouTube channel):

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1HPD2ai10bo-qbNaXvNVtw>

Continued Financial Support for our Congregations

Please prayerfully consider how you can
continue to support your congregation's
ongoing ministries during this time.

- Offerings can be **mailed to the church address** itself
- **PAR forms** (for pre-authorized debit) are available from your church treasurer
- You can send your offering by **E-TRANSFER** through your online banking. **Here is where to send them:**

For **Claremont United** send to: treasurercuc@outlook.com

For **Goodwood United** send to: goodwooductreasurer@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued support of our congregation's ministry.

