

Please stand where ** is indicated

Gathering Song: VU 273 The King of Love

Announcements:

Welcome:

The light of Christ shines within us. (*Elder lights Christ candle*).

We are worshipping on unceded Mi'kmak'i land;

acknowledging that we are all people of the Peace and Friendship Treaty.

(*Elder lights Peace Candle*)

The Holy Embrace encompasses us all. (*Elder lights Affirmation candle*)

In this community of faith, we celebrate that all are welcome in this place.

All are welcome by God's grace.

Call to Worship:

Lent is a time of repentance and reconciliation, risk and renewal;

A time to face all that which hems us in and holds us back.

We gather to name the evils that surrounds us;

Our abuse of power; the harm we do to others and to the earth.

We gather to give voice to the evils within us;

The injustices that silence us; the pain that drains us of hope.

We gather to claim God's liberating love in the face of all the evils we know.

Come let us worship God.

Opening Prayer:

Renewing God, we seek the presence of your Spirit.

Be our Guide and Companion as we walk with Christ.

Hymn: VU 121 Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (vv. 1, 5, 4th Sunday)

Prayer of Confession:

O God, we confess that we often come to you reluctantly, afraid of what we might have to give up or change when we enter your presence.

In our reluctance, we often miss opportunities for your grace to touch us, and through us touch others.

Touch us that we might be healed;

forgive us that we might be born again.

Words of Assurance

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light.

Everything exposed by the light becomes light.

You have brought your sin into the light of Christ.

Siblings in Christ, your sins are forgiven;

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Time for all Ages

Hymn: VU 509 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Prayer of Illumination:

Eternal God,

In the reading of the scripture may Your Word be heard;
In the meditation of our hearts, may Your Word be known;
And in the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown,
Amen

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

offered by Sandra Braye

Psalm 23 (*sung, at VU 748 God Is My Shepherd*)

John 9:1-41

- offered in Reader's Theatre

Words of God that is still speaking.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Christ, You Made the Blind Man See - words © 2017 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Christ, you made the blind man see; with some mud you healed his eyes.
So you acted lovingly, bringing health and changing lives.
Yet it was a Sabbath Day; rules were all that some folks saw;
They were quick to scorn the way you put love before the Law.

Christ, you came to judge the earth, bringing truth and life and light,
Showing humble ones their worth, giving vision, bold and bright.
Those who proudly think they see are the ones who often find
Though they act quite boastfully, they, in fact, are really blind.

God, we pray that we will be people filled with light and grace.
Show us what we need to see in this culture, time and place:
We are called to be your light, telling how you've changed us here.
Love can make the darkness bright; faith in you makes all things clear.

Reflection:

- Reverend Judith Perry

Ministry of Music: Cracks in the Ceiling

- written and offered by JMN Through the Night, with JLB

Offering Invitation: With joy, let us present offerings of commitment and support for the work of Christ's Church.

Hymn during Offering: MV 85 Take, O Take Me as I Am

****Offertory Response:** When Giving Your Gifts (v. 4)

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Offering Dedication:

In the name and in the spirit of Jesus,
We bring our gifts to You, O God,
Help us to give with them
 a ready mind,
 a willing spirit,
 and a joyful heart. Amen

Prayer Requests

Prayers of the People:

My sisters and brothers,
reconciled to God by the mercy of Christ,
we pray with confidence for the needs of the church and the world.

(Prayers of the People, concluding with:)

Through Christ you make us a new creation, O God,
for with him we pass from sin to the new life of grace.
Accept our prayers in the warm embrace of your compassion,
and welcome all people to the festive banquet of your table,
where we may rejoice in your love
and celebrate the inheritance you have given to us.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

****Hymn: VU 508** Just As I Am

****Blessing:**

Go now and live as children of the light.
Seek what is pleasing to the Lord.
Expose the unfruitful works of darkness,
and commit yourselves to the works of God who sends you.
And may the Lord be your shepherd and be all that you need.
May Christ open your eyes and guide you along sure paths.
May the Spirit Holy revive your spirits
and tend you with goodness and love
every day of your life.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
in the name of Christ. Amen.

****Parting Song:** An Irish Blessing

- words anon.; musical setting by Paul Stookey