

Gospel Lesson: John 3:1-12, 16-17
The Gospel of Christ
Thanks be to you, O Christ.

Reflection: "Facing Death"

*Hymn: "Rejoice, the Lord is King" VU 213 vs 2, 3, 4

We Commit to Live a Sacred Vision...

Offering of ourselves, seeking justice, loving kindness, walking humbly

Minute for Mission/St Paul's Minute

Offering Ourselves for the Work and Witness of Christ's Church

*Offertory Hymn: "We Offer" – Bowman/Kingsbury

We offer our hearts to cherish one and all. We offer our arms to brace against a fall. We offer our ears to listen carefully. we offer our hands to build community.

*Offertory Prayer

Extravagant God, you lavish us with love and acceptance and ask that we love and accept others. **In offering these gifts, we express our commitment to your way. May they bring hope and welfare to this congregation and to your world. Amen.**

Anthem: "Peace" - Bells and choir

Prayers of the People

We Depart to Serve

"Thanks for the worship, folks"

*Hymn: "Here I am Lord" – Bells, congregation and choir VU 509

*Commissioning:

You are ministers of a new covenant in the Spirit. Go forth into the world, equipped for your ministry.

Empowered by the Spirit, we go out to serve. Granted new life, we are eager to make our witness.

*Benediction

The Postlude by Bells: "Serenity"

"Holy Hospitality" in the Fellowship Hall – lower level

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
COMMUNITY OF FAITH**

*A spiritual hub for
creativity, discovery and growth*



***Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 22, 2020***

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This morning we welcome St Paul's Handbell Choir and their Director Ann McMahon to our service. We ask that you listen quietly and attentively while the bells play.

St Paul's United Church

Lent 4, Laetare Sunday

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me”

* Stand in body or spirit

Bold print = congregation's voice

We Open our Hearts...

in community, in song, and in prayer

9:45 Gathering Music by Bells: “On Eagles Wings” / “Love Divine”

9:55 Welcome and Life of the Community

The Prelude by Bells: “Meditation”

Welcoming the Word and the Light

Call to Worship

We gather at a time of darkness. We gather as people of this world, too much of this world, a world constantly in need of light.

During the dark weeks of Advent we heard the news that God would come into the world and dispel all darkness.

Lent is a season in which we watch the world attempt to dispel the Light of Christ, especially this Lent.

We gather now in the middle of this Lenten Season to call upon ourselves and the world to REJOICE for God overcomes all made of darkness.

God and the love of God will prevail!

*Hymn: “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” VU 326

Prayer of Confession

O God our great Shepherd, you tenderly gather us as lambs, carrying us with your all-embracing love.

Yet, like sheep, we wander from you: following our own ways, ignoring your voice, distrusting your provisions.

Forgive our stubborn rebellion, our hardened hearts, our lack of trust.

Refresh us once again by your quiet waters of mercy and restore our souls by your redeeming love.

Guide our paths, that we might follow you more closely.

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life. Amen

Choir Response: “For You Alone” (Psalm 62) – *Mayberry, arr. Kai*

For You alone, my soul O God awaits in silence.

From You comes my salvation.

Assurance of Pardon

Even in the darkest valley, though death's shadow may threaten us, we need not fear, for the Lord is with us. God will comfort and shelter us.

No harm will come to us. No one can snatch us out of the Lord's hand. God will wipe away every tear from our eyes.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **Thanks be to God.**

Junior Choir: “My Soul is Thirsting for You” - *Angrisano*

Learning with Young People – young people invited forward

The Lord's Prayer

*Sing: “Jesus, Friend of Little Children” VU 340
(Sing all verses as children depart for Sunday School)

Bells & Harp: “Contemplation”

We Listen for the Sacred Word...

in one another, in Scripture, and from within ourselves

Hebrew Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 43:1-2

The Word of God

Thanks be to God

New Testament Lesson: Revelation 7:9-17

The Word of God.

Thanks be to God