

Sunday, 10 am – March 08, 2020
Second Sunday in Lent / International Women's Day

* indicates stand as able

Verse to Ponder: "Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me."

(Mark 14: 6 – NIV)

We Gather as a Community

Gathering Music: (Abe) Return to the Heart - Lanz

**Opening Hymn:* Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness VU 375

Lighting of Christ Candle: Acolyte: Alison Bridgewater
We light this candle as a symbol of our hope in Jesus Christ. This light reminds us how to love extravagantly!

May this light enflame our hearts with God's love.

Welcome and Greeting/ The Life, Work and Mission of the Church

**Call to Gather:*¹ Lorrie Lowes

Friends, we gather together as people of God to celebrate women's voices, proclaiming wisdom.

**Hand in hand, we are here to honour women's lives,
forging new paths.**

Heart to heart, let us remember women's faith, strong amid challenges.

We anticipate women's vision, calling us into the future.

Past, present, and future, our lives join with women everywhere.

We come to celebrate. We are all God's beloved!

*Prayer of Approach:*²

**Spirit of life, we thank you for our world –
for its infinite varieties of peoples, women and men,
colours, races and cultures,
for the endless opportunities of making new relationships,**

**for the challenge of creating new things
and discovering new truths,
for the call to heal all that is hurt or broken.
Open us to the breadth of your love. Amen.**

Special Music: My Sister's Hands – DeFord. Bell Canto

Time for the Young at Heart & the Prayer of Jesus Lorrie Lowes

* *Hymn:* Guide My Feet

**3. Stand by me while I run this race (x3)
For I don't want to run this race alone.**

**4. Comfort me while I run this race (x3)
For I don't want to run this race alone.**

(Youth and Children may leave for programme)

We Listen for the Word

*Prayer for Illumination (together)*³

**God of plenty and open doors, you feed the deep places in our
spirits and speak the words that evoke turning for the good.
Illumine us now with your Word of Life. Amen.**

The Gospel: "A Woman Anoints Jesus" Mark 14: 3-9 (NIV)

May the Light of Christ dwell where the Word is spoken.

Thanks be to God!

Ministry of Music: (Grace Notes) Morning Has Broken – Farjeon – arr.
Stevens & Simeone

Sermon: "Leave Her Alone!"

**Hymn:* Said Judas to Mary (vs 1,2,4) VU 129

¹ Inspired by a liturgy written by Keri Wehlander for the United church of Canada.

² Celebrate God's Presence, p. 523.

³ Allister Rose, Gathering Lent/Easter 2015.

We Respond in Faith

Prayers of the People

Offering and Offertory Music: (Grace Notes) Seek and You Will Find - Sleeth

**Presentation of Offering and Offertory Hymn:* Were the Whole Realm - VU 149 (vs. 4)

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small:
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Offertory Prayer:

Loving God, we have learned that when we lavishly give, we are enriched; and when we let go, we receive. So it is when we share these offerings. Receive them and transform them into your love. Amen.

We Depart in Peace

**Hymn:* We Are Pilgrims VU 595

*Sending Forth:*⁴

Every breath that is breathed,
every beat of the heart,
every smile and tear,
is a prayer.

May we find healing,
may we find hope,
may we find Love,

In the tears, the smiles, the beats, the breaths,
In every moment that was,
every moment that is,
every moment to come. **Amen.**

Departing Music: Circle of Friends - Lanz

⁴ Richard Bott, Gathering, Lent/Easter 2020.