



February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 9:30 a.m.

*Lent 1*

*Jesus, who are you really...now?*

**Prelude** Annie Schulz

**Gathering Thoughts** Doug Schulz

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Jesus, we dearly want to know you,  
love you and serve you.

**People: We come to you with grief and worry about our world.**

Leader: And we trust that our uncertainty will yield to your peace.

**People: We long for a deep sense of your living presence.**

**All: *Fill us, restore us, renew and sustain us,  
with your strength and love.***

**Prayer** Lord Jesus Christ, Lamb of God, you took away the sin of  
the world.

You did not leave us to our own devices,  
but gave yourself to us on the cross.

Now we give ourselves to you:

keep us on the path that leads to justice on earth  
and eternal life in heaven. Amen.

**Hymn** *Fill Us with Your Feast* VT #309

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayer for Offerings**

**Women's Chorus** *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

**Prayers of the People** Doug Schulz

**Hymn** *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* VT #743, vv.1,2,3

**Scripture Reading** Isaiah 40:1-5 (OT p.667)

**Hymn** *Healer of Our Every Ill* VT #644, vv.1,2



**Annual Meeting ~ After the Worship Service on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> in the Church Hall.**

### **Lent: Jesus, who are you really...now?**

As we journey through Lent this year, our question for consideration is: *Jesus, who are you really, now?* Lent calls us to a time of honest reflection and spiritual re-centring. We are invited to simplify our lives and make room for hearing and responding to Christ's call to us. It reminds us that Jesus promises to meet us *right now, where we truly are* – in our struggles, places of brokenness, and when we feel things just don't make sense. It is in the current painful realities of our world that the Spirit calls us.

This year, the season of Lent is framed by Jesus' experience of Holy Week. We will be drawing on the Narrative Lectionary readings which provide a slow, intentional journey through the second half of the Gospel of John. After the first week's reading in John 11, we will spend the rest of Lent exploring John's Holy Week narratives. We are invited to linger in the intensity of that final week of Jesus' life. We will be challenged to stay in the hard places with Jesus and linger through Lent at the edge of our understanding, so we might discover anew who Jesus really is, even now.

Using the words of Walter Brueggeman, we pray in these Lenten days: *When we are tempted to be in denial – not to notice the suffering, not to engage it, not to acknowledge it – be that way of truth among us that we should not deceive ourselves. That we shall see that loss is indeed our gain. We give thanks for that mystery from which we live. Amen.*

### **ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD**



Please pray for the MCEC community of congregations. This week we pray for **Chin Christian Church** in Kitchener, and for Jehu Lian and Joseph Raltong, who provide pastoral leadership to this community. Many in this congregation have family and friends in Myanmar who are suffering amid ongoing violence and instability. On February 10, a Myanmar military bomber struck a village in Chin State. In the aftermath of the attack, the entire population fled into the surrounding forests for safety. Lord, hear our prayer.

**World Day of Prayer** – Friday. March 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm  
"I Will Give You Rest: Come" - Matthew 11:28-30  
Ecumenical Worship Service at St. Mark's Anglican Church,  
41 Byron Street, Niagara on the Lake  
Service written and prepared by WDP Nigeria, prepared and  
adapted for use in Canada by the Women's Inter-Church Council of  
Canada

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**The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father who art in heaven.  
Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.  
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory.  
For ever and ever Amen.

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## Communion Service Litany

Friends, if we are honest with ourselves and with God, we are all seeking something.

Some of us long for a place to belong. Others seek permission to be who we are made to be.

Some of us are hungry for connection, hungry for justice, or hungry for a glimpse of the Divine.

No matter what it is your soul longs for, there is good news to be found here.

Friends, this is Christ's table. We are the guests. He is the host. There is a seat here with your name on it. Thanks be to God for a love like that.

## We Confess Our Faith and Need of God's Forgiveness

**Leader:** Let us confess our faith together.

**All:** We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

**Leader:** In silence let us confess what is ours to confess: the good news we have given and received, the bad we have given and received.

Silence.

**Leader:** To those who have brought what is life giving, Jesus says, “The kingdom is among you!” To those who have brought what is life taking, Jesus says, “Your sins are forgiven you!”  
God forgives and restores us in Christ.

## **Pastoral Prayer**

Christ, we praise you for being the resurrection and the life.  
You broke bread and poured out wine in the dark shadow of the cross.  
You gave your life to bring true life to us and to the world.  
Come to us now and pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and cup,  
that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ.  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, that we may walk in newness of life.  
Amen.

## **Words of Institution**

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

### **The Bread**

Distribution of the Bread (Please hold the piece of bread until all are served and we are able to partake together.)

Prayer for the Bread.

Leader: The body of Christ, broken for you.

(We eat the bread together.)

### **The Cup**

In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Distribution of the Cup (Please take a cup as the trays are passed. We will wait until all are served and we can partake together.)

Prayer for the Cup.

Leader: The blood of Christ shed for you.

(We drink the cup together. Please place the empty cup in the holder in front of you.)

## **Prayer After Communion**

God of manna and mustard seeds, we came to this Table hungry  
and we leave feeling full—

full of hope,

full of promise,

full of what could be.

For we not only found glimpses of you at this Table,  
but we caught a glimpse of the way things could be:  
in a meal where all are welcomed and all are fed.

Is there anything holier than that?

So thank you for nourishing our curiosity  
alongside our spirit and our conviction.

May we always seek you the way you seek after us.

With grateful hearts we pray, amen.

## **Benediction**

Go, knowing you are loved by God.

And when you feel the days are dark, may Christ come to you with  
words of life.

**When Grief Is Raw**

VT #655

*When grief is raw  
and music goes unheard  
and thought is numb,  
we have no polished phrases to recite.  
In Christ we come  
To hear the old familiar words:  
"I am the resurrection. I am life."*

*God, give us time  
for gratitude and tears,  
and make us free  
to grieve, remember, honor, and delight.  
Let love be strong  
to bear regrets and banish fears:  
"I am the resurrection. I am life."*

*The height and breadth  
of all that love prepares  
soar out of time,  
beyond our speculation and our sight.  
The cross remains  
to ground the promise that it bears:  
"I am the resurrection. I am life."*

*All shall be judged,  
the greatest and the least,  
and all be loved,  
till every hurt is healed, all wrong set right.  
In bread and wine  
we taste the great homecoming feast,  
and in the midst of death we are in life.  
"I am the resurrection. I am life."*