

LYRICS & PRAYERS
Ralph Connor Memorial
United Church
Worshipping in Banff

FIFTH SUNDAY in LENT
March 26, 2023



**The
Theological
Banquet**

Evangelical

Ecclesial

Ecumenical

Spiritual

Missional

A Time of Gathering Light:

Lighting the Fifth Lenten Candle

Introit: Voices United #315 verse 1

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

~Reginald Heber – John Bacchus Dykes~

Public Domain

Holy, Holy, Holy!
Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning
our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

-end-

Greeting

Good morning! May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the community of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

Words of Welcome

Hymn: More Voices #98
“Like a River of Tears”

~John Oldham, 1996-Ron Klusmeier, 1997~

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**Children may go to Kids’ Connection during this hymn;
they will rejoin us for Communion**

1. Like a river of tears
your love pours upon us;
Like a sunshine of blessing
your grace will sustain us;
Like a star-studded sky
your spirit shines o'er us,
Renewing our spirits
with courage and faith.

2. Like a bird in free flight
by windows around us;
Like a wind in the forest
that breathes life among us;
Like a phoenix that's rising
from ashes around us,
Renewing our spirits
with vision and grace.

3. Like a pillar of cloud
your promise to guide us;
Like a bright fiery bush
you come to speak to us;
Like a calm cooling breeze
your spirit breathes in us,
Renewing our spirits
with loving embrace.

4. Like a lover's caress
your spirit revives us;
Like a song of the soul
you come to be with us;
like a prayer of the heart
you heal and restore us,
Renewing our spirits,
the future to face.

-end-

Prayer of Confession (responsive)

Holy God, in your gracious presence
we confess our sin and the sin of this world.

Although Christ is among us as
liberation and peace, we are a
people divided against ourselves,
as we cling to the values
of a broken world.

The profit and pleasures we pursue
lay waste the land and pollute the seas.

The fears and jealousies
that we harbour
set neighbour against neighbour,
and nation against nation.

We abuse your gifts of imagination and freedom,
of intellect and reason,
and have turned them into bonds of oppression.

Heal and forgive us.

Set us free to serve you in the world
as agents of your reconciling love.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

VU 400: “*Lord, Listen to your Children*”

– *by Ken Medema, alt.*

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God, listen to your children praying,
God, send your Spirit in this place;
God, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

VU 918: A Statement of Faith: the “new” United Church Creed (1968/1980/1994)

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us. We are not alone.**

Thanks be to God.

Offertory: Voices United # 541

~Thomas Ken, 1674~ Public Domain

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low;
Give thanks to God, in love made known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit, One.**

The Great Thanksgiving (responsive)

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give
our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God...
...we worship you, and bless your name as we sing:

(we sing together - #117 from Songs for a Gospel People)

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Mighty and tender God, in Jesus of Nazareth...
...our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

Send, O God, your Holy Spirit ...
...all glory is yours, God most holy,
now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Creator, who art is 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 who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Sharing of the Communion Elements

Moment of reflection,
with music



Prayer after Communion (unison)

We give thanks, almighty God,
that you have refreshed us at your table
by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ.
Strengthen our faith,
increase our love for one another,
and send us forth into the world
united in courage and peace,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Blessing and Sending Forth (responsive)

As we go forth,
let us give thanks and glory to God.

Glory to God, whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.

Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the church, and in Christ Jesus,
forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Voices United #691

“Walls that Divide”

~Walter Farquharson – Ron Klusmeier~

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1. Though ancient walls may still stand proud
and racial strife be fact,
though boundaries may be lines of hate,
proclaim God's saving act!

Walls that divide are broken down;

Christ is our unity!

Chains that enslave are thrown aside;

Christ is our liberty!

2. When vested power stands firm entrenched
and breaks another's back,
when waste and want live side by side,
it's Gospel that we lack.

*Walls that divide are broken down;
Christ is our unity!*

*Chains that enslave are thrown aside;
Christ is our liberty!*

3. The truth we seek in varied scheme,
the life that we pursue,
unites us in a common quest
of self and world made new.

Walls that divide are broken down;

Christ is our unity!

Chains that enslave are thrown aside;

Christ is our liberty!

4. The church divided seeks that grace,
that newness we proclaim,
a unity of serving love
that lives praise to God's name.

Walls that divide are broken down;

Christ is our unity!

Chains that enslave are thrown aside;

Christ is our liberty!

5. This broken world seeks lasting health
and vital unity.

God's people, by God's Word renewed,
cast off all slavery.

Walls that divide are broken down;

Christ is our unity!

Chains that enslave are thrown aside;

Christ is our liberty!

then Postlude...