

KAMLOOPS UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, March 18, 2018
(5th Sunday in Lent)

* Please stand as you are able and as you are comfortable.

Opening Music / A Beginning Bell / Time for Quiet Reflection

Words of Welcome

Music with the **Lighting of the Christ Candle** and bringing forward the **Prayer Box**

***We Gather in this Sacred Space** (based on Psalm 119)

One: As we gather this day, we ask: "how might we keep to the straight path?"

ALL: We are called to listen to the still voice within.

One: With all our hearts, let us not wander from God's teachings.

ALL: God's Word is imprinted upon our hearts, so that we may walk in God's light.

One: God's Word in our hearts is more delight than the world's riches.

ALL: With God's Word in our hearts, may we each become a fountain of joy!

One: And may we each give thanks for God's bountiful blessings!

ALL: With thanks and joy, we come in worship this day.

*** An Opening Prayer**

God of love, as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us, so may we give ourselves to you, living according to your holy will. Keep our feet firmly on the way where Christ leads us; help our lips speak the truth that Christ teaches; open our hearts to the light of Christ before us; fill our bodies with the life that is Christ within us. In his name we pray. Amen.

* **Hymn:** #312 VU Praise with Joy the World's Creator

A Time for Learning:

Hymn: (remain seated) #18 MV Open Our Hearts (3x)

Scriptures: Jeremiah 31: 31-34 *The new covenant written on the heart*
John 12: 20-26 *Some Greeks want to see Jesus.*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection from Several Congregants - Jan Vint, Dale Merrett, Phyllis Boswell, Rob Gretsinger

Minute of silence for personal reflection.

* **Hymn:** #563 Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

Prayers of the People followed by Lord's Prayer (spoken)

Creator God, Holy One, we gather in prayer as Seekers, and Followers of Jesus, the Christ, and by the leading of Spirit.

We give thanks and praise today for:

This generous land, respite from the harshness of winter with the signs of Spring, sprouting bulbs and seeds, birds and animals in the gardens, grasslands and forests; the river on which we all depend for life-giving water that reminds us of your ever flowing love for us.

We are thankful for the opportunities to gather in Community to discover again the meaning in our lives and times of the teachings of Jesus, and to explore Spirit-led expressions of care and compassion.

We are thankful for our leaders and teachers who enlighten our many and varied understandings of being and becoming "Church".

For these people, places and situations that rest heavily on our hearts today we pray;

(From the Prayer Box) Solace and comfort on the Death of a mother, in Hospice, those with health concerns we remember Dustin and Dennis....; and in Royal Inland Hospital, Margaret Warner and Shirley Smith,

For all those who are lonely or who grieve losses:

For children of our community and the world threatened by lack of food, sanitation, and shelter, and those who will never know the empowering love of mother or father.

For lives shattered by the devastation of war, and for lives in our community and the world that are restricted by fear. Move us to action and to ask the hard questions.

From the Presbytery Prayer Cycle we pray for the Naramata Board and Volunteers,

From the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle of the World Council of Churches we pray for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

We pray for the United Church of Canada undergoing major structural changes that offer the opportunity to shape our visions and missions as faithful people of God. Here in KUC may we focus not on loss but on Hope and be re-energised by new understandings of each other and our relationships and callings within and beyond this building.

Let us now pray together the prayer that Jesus taught...

* **Our Offering** #191 MV (2x)

**What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**

*** Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

God of generosity and abundance, we give you thanks for all your many gifts, and especially the gift of Jesus who walked with us and walks with us still. As we walk our Lenten journey, we remember his teachings, his care and compassion, his call to social justice. Today in response to your gifts and to the love of Christ, we bring forth our offerings. Use these gifts in our ministry here as a Centre for Community and Spiritual Discovery; use them in the ministry to the wider world; and use us as your instruments for peace and justice in the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*** Hymn:** #176 MV Three Things I Promise

Announcements and Celebrations of the KUC Community

*** Commissioning**

*** Sung Benediction** – Folk of Note: Benediction 3 – See the Cross

*** Departing Chorus:** #214 MV May God's Sheltering Wings (2x)
May God's sheltering wings, her gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms, her cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in her love, and hold you in her love.