

Lakefield United Pastoral Charge

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Indigenous Land Acknowledgement: *We respectfully acknowledge that Lakefield United Church is located on the Treaty 20 Michi Saagiig territory and in the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as Williams Treaty First Nations, which include: Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Alderville, Scugog Island, Rama, Beausoleil, and Georgina Island First Nations.*

Lakefield United Church respectfully acknowledges that the Parties of Williams Treaties are the stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters, and that we all must take responsibility and work together to ensure their health and integrity for generations to come.

We gather with Praise
(*asterisk * indicates please stand as able*)

Prelude A Gaelic Melody arranged by
Richard Blake

Welcome

Announcements

Candle Lighting

As we journey through Lent, as we move towards the darkness of the cross, we light a candle to remind us of the Light that cannot be put out.

May its light remind us that we are not alone.

Call to Worship

Holy God, Creator of Life,
you call us out of our dark places,
offering us the grace of new life.

**When we see nothing but hopelessness,
you surprise us with the breath of your
spirit.**

Call us out of our complacency and routines,
set us free from our self-imposed bonds,
**and fill us with your spirit of life,
compassion, and peace,**
In the name of Jesus, your anointed one,
we gather for worship. Amen.

***Opening Prayer Unison**

**We choose not to give in to fear:
Even when we are threatened by violence
and abuse,
we choose to believe in the power of love.**

We choose not to be led by despair:

**Even when dreams fail and the world
seems to grow colder and more broken,
we choose to believe in the power of hope.**

**We choose not to be blinded by cynicism:
Even when joy and celebration feel naïve
and frivolous,
we choose to believe in the power of faith.**

**We choose not to be over-awed by death:
Even when grief shuts out all other voices,
we choose to believe in the power of life.
In every time,
in each place,
with all people,
may your resurrection rise up within us,
and lead us to new, creative, healing
choices.**

Amen.

John van der Laar

Hymn VU 410 This Day God Gives Me

Conversation Time

Extinguish the Lenten Candle

**Scripture Lesson JN 11:1-45 Death of
Lazarus**

**Hymn VU 382 Breathe On Me, Breath of
 God**

Reflection

Anthem There is a Balm in Gilead

Prayers of the People

Our Father who art in heaven:
remind us this day
that you are not only creation's Architect,
but you are the Babe who cried for food,
the teenager who knew loneliness,
the adult who felt the rejection of loved
ones.

Hallowed by Thy name:
yours is the name spun by the stars;
yours is the name whispered by the dying;
yours is the name written on our hearts.

Thy Kingdom come:
may it be a kingdom of peace, not
prejudice;
may it be a kingdom of sharing, not
grasping;
may it be a kingdom of hope, not hurting.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven:
may your Word be more than print on a page;
may your justice be more than a wish in our hearts;
may your will become our deepest desire.

Give us this day our daily bread:
let us taste it in the kisses of loved ones;
let it fill us in the empty moments of our lives;
let it slip out of our hands to mend the brokenness of our world.

And forgive us our debts as we forgive others:
may those who have hurt us find a welcome in our hearts,
even as we have found our home in yours.

And lead us not into temptation:
turn our hearts from the seductions of our world;
and the simple pleasures that turn us from you.

Keep us from thinking we are so important
that we ignore those around us.

**Help us to always bring others to you in
prayer,
before we bring ourselves,
as we do in these moments:**

Prayers are lifted for others

**But deliver us from evil:
not just great evils of war and hunger,
but from ingratitude, self-love, pride,
all those little evils that do such great
harm.**

**For thine is the kingdom:
our heart's true longing;
and the power:
which you set aside to serve us in
weakness;**

**and the glory:
which we would mirror in our lives,
our bodies, our minds, our souls,
this day and every day.**

Forever and ever.

Amen

Thom Shuman

Prayer Response

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this
place,**

I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.

I can hear the brush of angel's wings

I see glory on each face;

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Remembering the Offering

***Hymn VU 352 I Danced In the Morning
vs 1, 2**

***Benediction**

Choral Benediction

When you feel your day is at its end
when you pray for rest around each bend.
When the road you walk has been too long
may our love keep you strong.

May you find your shelter in these walls.
Let us share your journey's trials and joys.
May your feet find rest when day is long.
May the peace of God be in your song.
May the peace of God be in your song.
May the peace of God be in your song

**Postlude Prelude and Fugue in A
Minor by JS Bach**