

Bayview United Church

2609 Bayview Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M2L 1B5
416-447-5941 office@bayviewunitedchurch.ca

Worship Service

Zoom Audio Call

Call: 647-374-4685

ID#: 896-7180-8158#

Participant ID: Press #

Password: call or email office

Church Administrator: M. Leone

Music Director: K. Quinton

Minister: Rev. C. Cooper

First Sunday of Lent

Sunday, February 26th, 2023 11:00 a.m.

Moment of Silent Reflection:

“Life is a matter of choices, and every choice you make makes you.” – **John C. Maxwell**

“Choices are the hinges of destiny.”
– **Edwin Markham**

“May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears.”
– **Nelson Mandela**

“The three C’s in life. Choices, Chances, Changes.
You must make a choice to take a chance or your life
will never change.” - **Unknown**

“Remember, there are no mistakes, only lessons.
Love yourself, trust your choices, and everything is
possible.” -- **Cherie-Carter Scotts**

Page 2 Praising God

Prelude “The Gift of Love” English melody
Hal Hopson, arr. John Carter



Words of Welcome

Acknowledging the Territory

Call to Worship

Today we begin our Lenten journey of spiritual reflection and renewal.

The pathway can be full of temptations and difficult decisions, as well as opportunities and blessings.

Take courage, for we do not travel alone.

There are generations of faith-filled followers who have travelled this road before us.

Jesus calls us to open our hearts and minds to the possibilities before us.

The Spirit of God is with us and will strengthen us as we take each step.

Opening Prayer (unison)

Guiding and directing Creator, we worship You as the One who led Jesus into the wilderness and has brought us to this season of Lent. We are grateful that the resources You gave Jesus are available to us. Touch us with a renewed sense of what is most important and inspire us to more fully follow Your gospel path. Amen.

Hymn (108) "Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights" vs. 1,3,4,5

- 1 Throughout these Lenten days and nights we turn to walk the inward way, where, meeting Christ, our guide and light, we live in hope till Easter Day.
- 3 We bear the silence, cross and pain of human burdens, human strife, while sisters, brothers help sustain our courage till the Feast of Life.
- 4 And though the road is hard and steep, the Spirit ever calls us on through Calvary's dying, dark and deep, until we see the coming Dawn.
- 5 So let us choose the path of One who wore, for us, the crown of thorn, and slept in death that we might wake to life on Resurrection Morn!

Our Lenten Project

**Aid to the victims of the Turkey & Syrian earthquakes
Through the International Development and Relief
Foundation (IDRF)**

Prayer for Grace (unison)

God of life, You call us to care for one another and for all creation. Sometimes we look for happiness in the wrong places. We think about the things we could have or could do to make us happy. Help us when we lose our focus to bring You closer to our minds so we may fill our lives with Your presence and priorities. Amen.

Sung Assurance (376) "Spirit of the Living God" vs. 1, 2

- 1 Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
- 2 Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind,
make us one in love:
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!

Gospel Lesson Matthew 4:1-11 J. Cermak
(Jesus is tempted in the wilderness.)



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Solo "To the Desert Jesus Came" Linnea Good
P. Tibbles Cookson, Mezzo Soprano

Sermon "Choices" Rev. Cooper

Hymn (115) "Jesus, Tempted in the Desert" vs.1, 3, 4

- 1 Jesus, tempted in the desert,
lonely, hungry, filled with dread:
'Use your power,' the tempter tells him;
'turn these barren rocks to bread!'
'Not alone by bread,' he answers,
'can the human heart be filled.
Only by the Word that calls us
is our deepest hunger stilled!'
- 3 Jesus, tempted on the mountain
by the lure of vast domain:
'Fall before me! Be my servant!
Glory, fame, you're sure to gain!'
Jesus sees the dazzling vision,
turns his eyes another way:
'God alone deserves our homage!
God alone will I obey!'
- 4 When we face temptation's power,
lonely, struggling, filled with dread,
Christ, who knew the tempter's hour,
come and be our living bread.
By your grace, protect, preserve us
lest we fall, your trust betray.
Yours, above all other voices,
be the Word we hear, obey.

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Responding to God

Lenten Litany

Juanita Austin

Read by Rev. Cooper & J. Cermak

One: Forty days to wander in the wilderness.

That is what Lent calls us to do.

All: And so we wander, unsure of where we are going, uncertain of the purpose of this journey, unsettled by the silence of the desert, and overwhelmed by the opportunities before us.

Hymn (154) MV "Deep In Our Hearts" vs. 1

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;

Deep in our hearts there is a common song;

Deep in our hearts there is a common story,

telling Creation that we are one.

One: Yet even in the wilderness time we feel the pull of the Spirit. We find ourselves yearning for the One who puts breath in our lungs and tosses the stars into the sky.

All: We are desperate to know God as Abraham did and feel the blessing of the Creator upon us. Even in this wild space, we know the Holy is near.

Hymn (154) MV "Deep In Our Hearts" vs. 2

Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;

Deep in our hearts there is a common goal;

Deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.

One: And so we gather at this spiritual place and time.

We could turn back; we've not gone too far in the desert yet. But we won't! We will keep on this sacred journey, trusting that God will guide us.

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All: We will keep on trusting that wisdom will be offered. We will keep on trusting that in this wilderness time we will be offered glimpses of a God who fills our lives with love, joy, and meaning.

Hymn (154) MV “Deep In Our Hearts” vs. 3
Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
Deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
Deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.

One: In the midst of a snowy, cold winter, in the midst of the uncertainty of a pandemic, we have slipped into a new liturgical season.

All: The colour has changed from green to purple; the mood is introspective.

One: A journey is being undertaken. We begin to recall Jesus’ last weeks of ministry, before crucifixion and death try to silence him.

All: Our lives are changed as we follow Jesus on this journey. Let us follow the path of Jesus through this season of Lent.

Hymn (154) MV “Deep In Our Hearts” vs. 4
Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
Deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

The Lord’s Prayer (unison)

**Our Father, Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.**

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**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,
and the power, and the glory.
For ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn (675) “Will Your Anchor Hold” vs. 1,2

1 Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?

When the clouds unfold their wings of strife,
when the strong tides lift and the cables strain,
will your anchor drift or firm remain?

**We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!**

2 It will surely hold in the straits of fear,
when the breakers tell that the reef is near;
though the tempest rave and the wild winds blow,
not an angry wave shall our bark o'erflow. **R**

Commissioning and Benediction

Although the road is long and the journey is hard
Although the mountains are too high

And the valleys are too low

By your grace, give us hope

By your power, give us strength

By your mercy, give us wisdom

So that we may continue to go where you lead us
Until all Your children are safe from harm.

May we go with Your light shining in us. Amen.

Choral Amen (424) “May the God of Hope...” vs. 1
May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

**Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

Postlude “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”
Trad. Irish/Henry Baker

Thank you for joining our Zoom audio and video
worship service today. We hope you found the
worship service a meaningful experience.

Many thanks to J. Brooker and B. Kai for
coordinating our Zoom audio and video service.
Thanks to J. Cermak for reading our scriptures and
litany. Thanks to K. Quinton, L. Lazar, and P. Tibbles
Cookson for inspiring us with their music.

Today, Sunday, February 26th, First Sunday of Lent.
1:00 p.m. – Congregational meeting to receive an
update from the Exploration Team. The Team has
issued an invitation to another church and will report
on the feasibility and potential of a merger. The
congregation will be asked to agree that the
Exploration Team continue to work with the named
congregation to identify the detailed actions required
to effect a merger by June 30, 2023.

Sunday, March 5th, Second Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 12th, Third Sunday of Lent
1:00 p.m. - The Annual Meeting will be held on
Zoom.

Sunday, March 19th, Fourth Sunday of Lent

Lenten Offering Project:

This year you are invited to support the **International
Development and Relief Foundation (IDRF)** which
is providing aid to the victims of the Turkey & Syrian
earthquakes. **IDRF** has launched its first phase of its
emergency response program by helping survivors
with **blankets, heaters, tents and jackets**.
Additionally, **IDRF** will provide **warm meals and
emergency first aid** to families affected by this crisis.

IDRF is a non-profit Canadian registered charity
based in North York, working with partners around the
world and locally to facilitate relief and development
programs.

Your **donations** given to **BUC** on **Easter Sunday** will
go towards supporting this important aid program.
Thank you for your support!

Prayers and Concerns: Please remember in your
prayers all those in need of hope, comfort and
healing.

BUC Prayer Group: These individuals offer
confidential prayer support to anyone who is in need
of God’s healing love, support and compassion in
their lives. Prayers may be for a relative, a close
friend or yourself. Please email Rev. Cooper

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or call R. Shikaze at 905-607-5950 with your prayer request.

You can support Bayview United Church using **e-transfer** from your bank. Decide the amount you wish to donate, follow your bank's instructions & email to: office@bayviewunitedchurch.ca. In the comments section, indicate where you would like your donation to go, for example Local, Mission and Service, Easter, Memorial, etc. If you do not use e-transfer you can always mail your cheque to the church. Thank you for your support of BUC.

God bless you, stay well, stay safe and we hope you tune in next week...same day, same time, and same Zoom phone number or video link.



Have a blessed day!