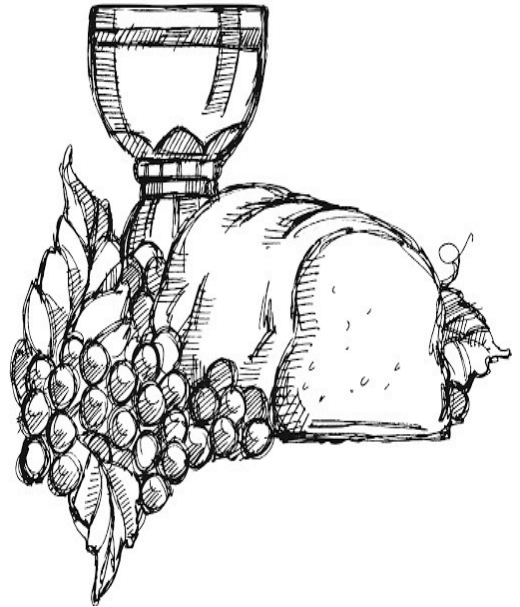


Sunday, March 1, 2020

Lent 1

The Kingdom of God is like a seed
planted in someone's heart
Slowly silently stretching it
beyond family and friends,
church and nation,
Until one day that heart bursts open
revealing a Table
Wider than the world,
warm as an intimate embrace....
Around this Table everyone eats
and no one is stuffed.
Each sips deeply of love unearned
and offers the cup to another.
From the Table each rises
strengthened by a morsel and a sip
Heart seeded anew.



Sister M. Robison, New Testament Hospitality

Rideau Park United Church

We acknowledge, with respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the indigenous peoples of Canada, and their stewardship of the unceded Algonquin land where this church is built. Rideau Park is an Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Canada. All are invited to participate fully, with mutual respect, in the life and work of the church, including those of diverse ages, abilities, gender identities and sexual orientations, races ethnicities, religions, and economic backgrounds.

Lent 1 Sunday, March 1, 2020

Gathering Music:

Were You There?
Touch of Brass

Dobrinski

Lighting of the Chancel Candles: *“Matthew 5:15 – No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others.*

***Call to Worship:**

ONE: God opens to us a wider world.

ALL: God offers us a space to be ourselves.

ONE: Lent is a season of deepening reflection,

ALL: Guided by the vision of broken hearts mended, a voice deep within.

ONE: Let us worship in holy love.

*** Processional Hymn: 248 VU When Long Before Time The Singer and the Song**

*** Prayer of Approach**

Prayer of Confession: from Iona Abbey

ONE: Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness;
To the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, the life of the world.

**ALL: May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**

ONE: Amen.

**ALL: Before God, with the people of God, we confess to our brokenness;
To the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others, the life of the world.**

ONE: May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
And the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

ALL: Amen.

(a time of silent reflection and prayer)

Song of Assurance: 115 MV – Behold, behold, I make all things new
(Following the song, the children are invited to go to Sunday School.
They will be joining us later for communion.)

Scripture Reading: Genesis 3:1-6

Lay Reader:

Anthem

“The Prayer of Our Lord”
Chancel Choir

Rozsa

Scripture reading: Matthew 4:1-11

Lay Reader:

Sermon:

You will be like God

Elizabeth Bryce

*** Hymn: 111 VU**

As the Sun with Longer Journey

Picardy

The Life and Work of the Church

Offering

Offertory Music:

“Grazioso”
Touch of Brass

Sherman

***Hymn of Presentation: 195 MV Long Ago and Far Away**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

ONE: God be with you

ALL: And also with you

ONE: Lift up your hearts

ALL: We lift them to God

ONE: It is good that we should offer our hearts to God. For Christ invites us to be holy companions, saying: “When I walk in the wilderness, who will go with me?” Truly we should prepare our hearts for this time of trust and grace, this season of risk and transformation. May the courage of Christ be with us and for us.

Let us pray: O God, at the beginning of the earth you offered up a Word, and that Word became the light of the world. You nourished our ancestors in faith with the bread of life and the fruit of the earth.

ALL: You are a God of wide open places, a God whose compassion knows no end.

ONE: As we enter this wilderness journey of Lent, teach us to open our hearts and minds to your Word. Bless us with bread for the journey and a cup of blessing to share, that we might remember Jesus, how he gathered his friends, and broke the bread and shared the cup among them, saying “Do this in remembrance of me.” Remembering his death and resurrection, we set before you our bread and cup, thankful to be in your presence, and invited to your table.

ALL: You are a God of wide open places, a God whose compassion knows no end.

ONE: Send your Spirit on these gifts and on our lives. Fill us with your holy mystery that we might go forth, fed and empowered with your peace. And may the courage of Christ be with us and for us, Amen.

*Sharing the Bread and Cup

Today our communion will be served in the pews. Please hold on to the bread or cup until all can eat together. We believe this is God’s banquet – the table is open to all.

Jesus’ Prayer (p. 921 VU)

***Hymn: 481 VU – Sent forth by God’s blessing**

The Ash Grove

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

Welcome to Rideau Park United Church. Please note: Audio loops are available from the ushers. Prayer. Requests for today’s services can be noted on the lists at the entrances. Childcare for pre-schoolers is available in room B-12 (lower hallway). Quiet activity boxes are also available for children in the chapel each Sunday. ****Indicates where the congregation is invited to stand as able.*** Please join us for refreshments and conversation in Beecroft Hall after the service.