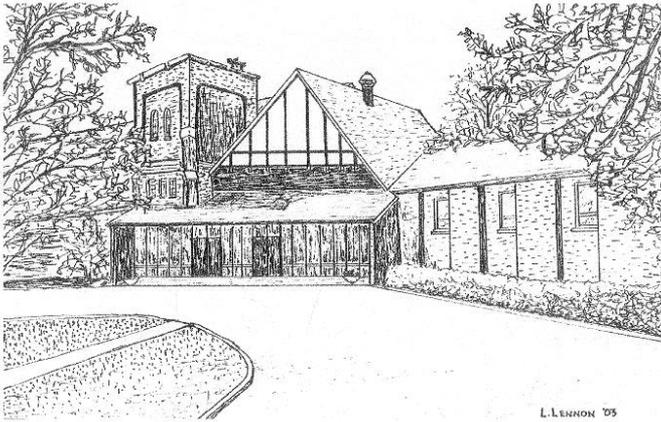


# West Plains United Church

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*March 19, 2023*  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
*Laetare Sunday*



## West Plains Mission Statement

*We are an active faith community, seeking to deepen our relationship with God through thoughtful worship, prayer, uplifting music, outreach, friendship and study, inspired by a setting overlooking nature. We are a growing church family welcoming people of all ages to follow Jesus' teachings in their lives.*

*\*Indicates an invitation to stand, as you are able.*  
*VU - Voices United hymn book, MV - More Voices hymn book.*

We follow current Covid-19 protocols; along with social distancing  
masking is highly recommended.

## ***GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE***

### **Lighting of the Christ Candle**

*We begin with a time of reflection.*

**Prelude:** "A Lenten Meditation" - L. Lefebvre-Wely

### **Opening Words**

**\*Hymn:** "Now Quit Your Care" VU 109

### **Welcome, Announcements, and Celebrations**

### **Prayer and Candle Lighting:**

**Compassionate God,  
on a wooden beam your beloved gave his life  
for love of us and for the mending of a tattered world.  
Teach us to care for one another  
with that same selfless love.  
On this, Lent's fourth Sunday, may our lives witness  
the joy of serving you and humankind.  
May our hearts also feel the peace  
of surrendering completely to your healing ways,  
so that renewed and restored,  
we will help to make your kingdom come.**

*(three purple candles and one rose are lit)*

**Response** (sung)

MV 67

One: Kyrie eleison,

**All: *Kyrie eleison,***

One: Christe eleison,

**All: *Christe eleison,***

One: Kyrie eleison,

**All: *Kyrie eleison.***

**Words of Assurance**

In the midst of darkness, God's light is poured out on you.  
Accept the light and love that is freely offered,  
and be transformed by its healing mercies. **Amen.**

**Solo:** "There is a Balm in Gilead" - arr. H.T. Burleigh  
(Soloist – Bev Robertson)

***PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD***

**Prayer of Illumination**

**Scriptures:**

Responsive Psalm #23 VU 749 (Refrain 2)

*"The God of love my shepherd is; what can I want  
or need."*

John 9: 1-41

**Hymn:** "Open My Eyes, That I May See" VU 371

**Sermon:** "Learning to Ask the Right Questions"

**Women's Choir:** "Lift Thine Eyes" -F Mendelssohn

## **GIVING THANKS TO GOD**

**\*Dedication of Offering:** VU 541

*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.*

### **Prayer of Dedication**

**Prayer Refrain:** "Giver of the Perfect Gift" VU 116 v1

*Giver of the perfect gift,  
only hope of human race;  
hear the prayer our hearts uplift,  
gathered at thy throne of grace.*

**Pastoral Prayer and the Prayer of Jesus** (VU 921)

## **GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME**

**\*Hymn:** "I Heard the Voice of Jesus" VU 626

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

**\*Threefold Amen**

**Postlude:** "Be Thou My Vision" - C.E. Walz

*You are invited to remain seated until the Postlude is concluded to  
enjoy a time of meditation as we conclude our worship service.  
Hymns Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-715986*

**Minister: The Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner**  
**Music Director: Lianne Tan**  
**Office Administrator: Wendy Thomson**  
**Video Technician: Jacob Sadler**  
**Caretakers: Maria DaSilva and Will Fennema**

~

**The flowers are placed in the sanctuary today  
in loving memory of Wesley Mifflin,  
husband of Bessie Mifflin  
and father of Ray Mifflin and family.**

~

**Please keep in your Prayers this week:**

Jan Hazelton, Mary Starodub, Marnie Gaylard, Lawrence and  
Tillie Hazzard, Joan King, Danvers Leng, Anna, her  
granddaughter Olesya, and Olesya's two children.

*First Nations people have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. We are mindful that West Plains stands on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishnabe and that we are all treaty people, parties to the Dish With One Spoon. May we live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship with all who live and work and worship on it.*