

West Plains United Church

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March 16, 2025
Second Sunday of Lent

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

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Lighting of the Christ Candle

We begin with a time of reflection.

Prelude: "Slane"

- C.E. Walz

Opening Words

***Hymn: "We Gather Here"**

(Lianne's Tune)

- 1. *We gather here on holy ground to pray.
We hold the world within our hearts today.
Come, Spirit, guide our song as we begin
to let the love of Jesus enter in.***
- 2. *God, give us hearts that long to see your face.
God, give us souls as gentle as your grace.
God, give us minds that seek to understand,
and give us strength to love as you command.***
- 3. *Now when we pray, we wrestle with a choice
and if we listen, we can hear your voice:
"Throw down your fear, cast off your warring ways,
choose life today, and join the song of praise."***
- 4. *A river flows and righteous rolls down,
The Source of life still moves on holy ground.
This barren land will blossom like a rose,
and prison doors will open where love goes.***

(Text: Dan Damon)

Prayer and Candle Lighting:

Create a clean heart within us, O God,
so that it may become your chosen shelter
and the resting place of the Holy Spirit.
Be with us on this second step
of our Lenten journey.
May we strip ourselves of anything in our lives
that separates us from you.
Help us to make a commitment
of our lives, our spirits, our hearts
to ministry in your name.
Strengthen us in our faith.

(two purple candles 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

One: God is with you. Look within.
Do not be afraid,
for God will bring you healing and hope.
All: Amen.

Welcome, Announcements, and Celebrations

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Anthem: "A Celtic Blessing"

- D. Wagner

Prayer of Illumination

Scriptures:

Responsive Psalm #27

VU 754

"God is my light and saving health, I shall not be afraid."

Second Reading: Luke 13: 31-35

***Hymn:** "Lead, Kindly Light"

VU 640

Sermon: "Whom Shall I Fear?"

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:

MV 90

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
my love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger
and I have promised, promised to be always near.

Pastoral Prayer & Prayer of Jesus

(VU 910)

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

***Hymn:** "O God, How We Have Wandered"

VU 112

***Commissioning and Benediction**

***Threefold Amen**

Postlude: "Slane"

- D.Terry

*(You are invited to remain seated until the Postlude is concluded to enjoy a time of meditation as we conclude our worship service.
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Minister: The Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner

Music Director: Lianne Tan

Office Administrator: Wendy Thomson

Video Technician: Jacob Sadler

Caretakers: Maria DaSilva and Will Fennema

All are invited to the Church Parlour following worship today to enjoy a time of refreshment and conversation

Please keep in your Prayers this week:

Tony, Isabelle & Christina Vandervlist, Gretchen Harris, Jan Hazelton, Marnie Gaylard, Tillie Hazzard, Joan King, Sarah Chandler, Sheila Thomas-Edge.

We thank you for praying for the Langford family. Our prayers have been answered, resulting in a favourable medical outcome for Curtis. God bless.

Judie Langford



The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are in memory of Keith Buxton, loving husband, wonderful dad to Stuart and father-in-law to Brenda, and friend to other members of the family. Treasured Grandad to Shauna & Vanessa and loving Great Grandad to Kara Lynn & Raena Lee. We miss you dearly.

Christine.

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.

Lenten Bible Study

West Plains Faith and Formation committee is hosting a Lenten Bible Study titled "Rocks and Gemstones". Led by Rev. Barbara, everyone is welcome. Tuesdays through to April 15th, we will meet in the Church Parlour (or connect via Zoom) from 1:30 to 2:30. You may contact Rev. Barbara at bmorr2@icloud.com for any further information. Come and be welcomed, as we journey together through this Lenten season.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84882205000?pwd=pbu0nmqwm7PG3ko9HHxiU78WN3gkt6.1>

Meeting ID: 848 8220 5000

Passcode: 177276