**Bridgewater United Church**

**March 19th, 2023 4th in Lent**

**UCW Mission and Service Sunday**

**Minister:** *Reverend Neil McEwen* **Music Ministry Director:** *Barbara Pate*

**Greeter:** *Mary Gray* **Greeter:** *Phyllis Munroe*

**Audio Visual Technician:** *Ewart Morse* **Sound Engineer:** *Evan Rafuse*

*The asterisk (\*) indicates the congregation may stand, as they are able.*

*The print in* ***BOLD*** *is where the congregation participates.*

Prelude

**\*Gathering Hymn:** **# 161 MV – I Have Called You by Your Name**

Welcome and Announcements

**Invitation to Worship:**

God calls us to live our lives with energy and enthusiasm.

God is the source of all goodness and strength.

**We are not alone.**

 **We are part of God’s world.**

Jesus called many to follow him in service,

in teaching and in healing. Jesus calls us.

**We are not alone.**

 **We are part of the ministry of Jesus in the world.**

We gather here to celebrate God’s presence,

and offer our hearts in worship, song and prayer.

**We gather to worship this day.**

**\*Chorus: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

**Chorus: # 18 MV – God, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary**

**Opening Prayer:** (*unison)*

**Loving God, when the people wandered in the wilderness, you were there. When they were hungry, thirsty and wondering how they could move forward, you were there – a gushing spring of water offering nourishment. In our worship may our spirits be nourished and revived as we wander through these Lenten days. Amen.**

Your Generosity Matters: Celebrating the UCW

Offering our Thanks

**Offertory Response: For Creation and The Gift**

(Tune: # 161 MV - I Have Called You by Your Name)

***For creation and the gift of Your Love;***

***for the Spirit, present with us as we live.***

***Lord, we thank You, as we give from the fruit of these, our hands,***

***may Your Grace be known by all the gifts we give*.**

**Prayer of Dedication:** (*unison)*

**Loving God, when we ask for a cup of water,**

**you gave us a fountain.**

**When we asked for living water,**

**you gave us truth.**

**May the gifts we offer be poured out upon a thirsty world,**

**bringing both comfort and truth. Amen.**

Time with Children: A Lot Of Candles

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Centring Hymn: Spirit, I Have Heard You Calling**

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:28-39 (selected verses), Hebrews 12:1, 2

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

 **Thanks be to God.**

This is Our Story: Celebrating 60+ Years of the United Church Women (UCW)

**Refrain:**

(Tune: # 337 VU – Blessed Assurance)

***This is our story; this is our song.***

***Praising Creator, Spirit and Son.***

***This is our story, vibrant and strong.***

***Living our mission as we are one.***

**Prayer:** (*unison)* *(from 1962 Inaugural Service)*

**Hear us O Lord, as we pray for wisdom and understanding to match the need or our day. Enlighten our minds as we study the complexities daily facing government, business, educators, health care and science. Grant us, we pray thee, heart, and nerve to act when thou dost show us thy way. Preserve us from disdaining the opportunities for seemingly small services which come to us. Give us grace to pray for those where opportunities look large to us. May all our service be done in accordance with thy will. Confirm us in our resolves, that we may truly do thy work for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Hymn: # 660 VU – How Firm a Foundation** *(from 1962 Inaugural Service)*

Message: An Enduring Presence

Time to Reflect

Prayers of the Community

**\*Closing Hymn: # 509 VU – I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord)**

Extinguishing The Candles

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

***CCLI No., 11287624, 20371363***



***The church bulletins are presented to the glory of God,***

***and in loving memory of Katherine Cramm, Pat Conrad,***

***Shirley Himmelman, Dianne Hay, Muriel Hubley,***

***Ruth Rudderham and Mildred Jodrie,***

***gift of Arts and Crafts Unit, UCW.***

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**#APlaceWhereEveryoneBelongs**

**#ChooseLove**

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Church Office Hours ~ Tuesday to Friday ~ 10:00am – 12:30pm

Be sure to like and share our Facebook and YouTube page!

**United Church Women**

**Mission and Service Sunday**

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“We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul,

a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain,

and into the most holy place.” ~ Hebrews 6:19

**International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

Created as a response to the killing of 69 protesters at a peaceful anti-apartheid demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa in 1960, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has been observed around the world every year on March 21st since 1966. To lament is to express sorrow and grief. To lament is to weep, to sob, to wail in the face of injustice. To lament is to mourn what has been lost and to express regret for wrongs done. During these 40 days of Lent, we are invited to lament the deep harm inflicted upon the First Peoples of Canada through the imposition of Western ways and culture, through the residential schools, and through continuing stereotypes and racism. In lamenting, we open the path for reconciliation and healing that will bring wholeness and well-being to all the peoples.

**Supporting Mission and Service Through Lent**

Envelopes in the Narthex are to be used for your Mission and Service donations for Lent. Loving our neighbour and compassion, lies at the heart of generosity. Mission and Service transforms and saves lives, inspires meaning and purpose and helps to build a better world. Mission and Service of the United Church of Canada is all about respect. They work in partnership with people and organizations and never impose their solutions, ways of doing things, or belief systems. They aim for long-term solutions over quick fixes because they want to make a lasting difference.

**Be United In Faith Lenten Book Study**

Bridgewater United and West Side United are co-hosting a weekly On-Site Lenten Book Study on the United Church resource, Good Courage: Daily Reflections on Hope, which will alternate between locations. We are also doing the Lenten Study through Zoom. Please contact the Church Office for the Zoom Link.

March 28th hosted at Bridgewater United at 7:00pm

March 21st and April 4th hosted at West Side United at 7:00pm

March 22nd, 29th and April 5th via Zoom at 7:00pm

**Broadview Subscription**

Broadview is an independent Canadian magazine featuring award-winning coverage of spirituality, justice and ethical living. Through their compelling stories and engaging images, Broadview challenges and inspires readers seeking to live a purpose-filled life. Each annual subscription is $25.00, with cheques made out to Bridgewater United, and all renewals must be submitted to the Church Office by March 31st.

**Come Together for Holy Week and Easter Services**

Our Maundy Thursday Worship Service will be held at West Side United on April 6th at 7:00pm and our Good Friday Worship Service will be held at Bridgewater United on April 7th at 10:30am. Easter Sunday will include a Sunrise Service at 6:30am on Bell Island with West Side United, please contact Reverend Neil McEwen for directions. Easter Sunday Worship Service with Holy Communion will be at both Bridgewater United and West Side United at 10:30am. Flowers for Easter are most welcome. We ask that you not place lilies, due to allergies. Thank you.

**Masks No Longer Required**

Physical distancing is still recommended and when this is not possible, the use of a mask is encouraged. Remember to be kind, understanding and respectful of all.

**Worship at Bridgewater United**

We are truly blessed to have reflections each week at B-United. Check out March!

March 19th – Reverend Neil McEwen (UCW Mission and Service Sunday)

March 26th – Reverend Vivian Moores

**UCW 60th Anniversary and Mission and Service Sunday**

Today, we are celebrating UCW’s 60th Anniversary and Mission and Service Sunday. The UCW provides a wonderful Outreach to both our church and beyond, and we are so blessed for all their contributions. You will find envelopes on your chairs, and with your help, we can continue to support the wonderful work of the UCW Mission and Service Fund. Please make cheques payable to Bridgewater United UCW.

**New Table Project for Bridgewater United Church**

We are looking to purchase ten plastic folding tables (6 person capacity), so that the tables can be used by all groups for events in the C.E. Centre. The approximate cost ranges between $80.00 to $160.00 plus tax each. If you would like to contribute to this project, please mark on your givings, “New Table Project.” It is truly appreciated.

**Confirmation Class**

Are you interested in Confirmation class (Grade 8 and up) at Bridgewater United Church? In the United Church of Canada, confirmation means the “confirming” of baptismal vows, which were taken earlier, usually when a person was an infant or a child. Confirmation signifies full membership in the congregation and the United Church of Canada. Contact the Church Office for more information.

**Joining Membership with Bridgewater United Church**

Are you interested in joining the membership of B-United? On Sunday, April 2nd, we will be welcoming new members by Confirmation or Transfer of Membership from another congregation. A full member is one who has been baptized, either as infant, child, youth or adult, and has made a public profession of faith before the congregation. Membership is not required in order to worship at a United Church, but only members can vote at congregational meetings. Contact the Church Office.

**B-United Supports Our Local Food Bank**

Monetary donations and donations of non-perishable food items are always appreciated throughout the month. For March, there is a request for Canned Fruit, Elbow Macaroni, Pudding, Instant Oatmeal and Cereal. Be mindful of expiration.

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*“A strong woman understands that the gifts such as logic, decisiveness, and strength,*

*are just as feminine as intuition and emotional connection.*

*She values and uses all of her gifts.”*

*~ Nancy Rathburn*