

March 31, 2019  
Fourth Sunday of Lent

**KIMBOURNE PARK UNITED CHURCH**

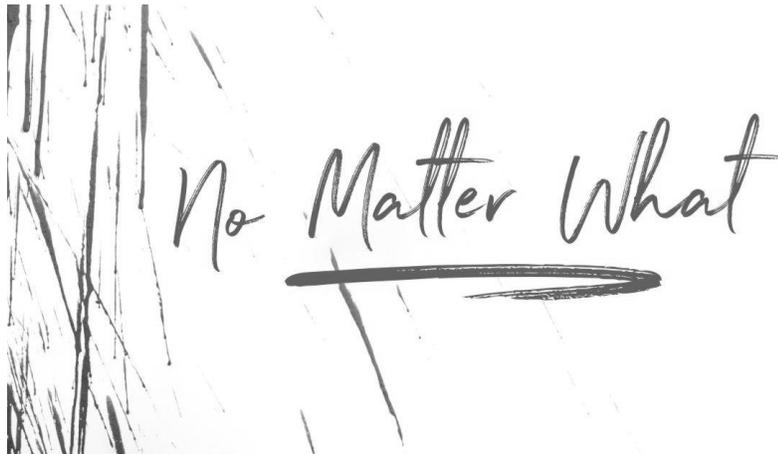
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March 31, 2019  
Fourth Sunday of Lent  
This is Our Story: Singing in the Wilderness



*"Working together to feed God's people mind, body and spirit"*



**reflection**

*"Play a little. Laugh more. Try new things. Walk through strange places. "*

Joan Chittister



## Pre-Service Music and Welcome

### GATHERING

*We acknowledge this sacred land on which Kimbourne Park United Church operates. It has been a site of human activity for 15,000 years. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the New Credit. The territory was the subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and Confederacy of the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.*

*Today, the meeting place of Toronto is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in the community, on this territory.*

**MV 107**            "God Loves Me"

### Entry into the Celebration

**One:**            As we gather together on this day, at this time, in this place may we recognise and affirm: the pieces of possibility, the bits of good, we bring, allowing our individual gifts to weave a patchwork of celebration and justice.

**Carol:**            Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life in the presentness of God.

*The candle is lit.*

**Carol:**            *In hope, in longing*

**ALL:**            **We're glad to come together.**

**Carol:**            *In trust, in community*

**ALL:**            **We're glad to come together.**

**Carol:**            *In many moods, in many shapes and sizes*

**ALL:**            **We're glad to come together.**

**Carol:**            *peace, in joy*

**ALL:**            **We're glad to come together in this Lenten season.**

## Prayer of Awareness

**Carol:** We pray. Remind us, O Spirit, that life is worth living. Remind us, O Creator, that the struggle for justice is worth undertaking. Remind us, O Mercy, that love and action are one. Amen. May this be so! Nelson-Pallmeyer

**MV 87** "Water Flowing from the Mountains"

## The Peace

**One:** God makes peace within us. Let us claim it.  
God makes peace between us. Let us share it.  
Let us greet another as a sign of God's peace.  
The peace of God is here to stay.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*You are invited to share the peace with your neighbours.*



"Let the little children come to me..."

Matthew 19:14, NIV

## Invitation to the Children to Come Forward

*Children of all ages are invited to come forward to sit on the steps.*

**MV 31** "Pure Love"

## CENTERING

**Cathie:** "Seeing the Rainbow in our Faces"

Rabbi Arthur Waskow Life Prayers

We are the generation  
That stands between the fires.  
Behind us is the flame and smoke  
That rose from Auschwitz and from  
Hiroshima.  
Before us is the nightmare of a Flood  
of Fire:  
The scorching of our planet  
From a flood of greenhouse gases,  
Or the blazing of our cities  
In thermonuclear fires.  
It is our task to make from fire  
Not an all-consuming blaze

But the light in which we see each other;  
Each of us different,  
All of us made in the image of God.  
We light this fire to see more clearly  
That the earth, the human race,  
are not for burning.  
We light this fire to see more clearly  
The rainbow in our many-colored faces  
Blessed is the One within the many.  
Blessed are the Many who make one.

**Meditative Music:** David

### **EXPLORING**

Readings from our biblical tradition

#### **Hebrew Scripture: Exodus 15:20-22**

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

“I will sing to the LORD,  
for he is highly exalted.  
Both horse and driver  
he has hurled into the sea.

“The LORD is my strength and my defense;  
he has become my salvation.

He is my God, and I will praise him,  
my father’s God, and I will exalt him.

The LORD is a warrior;  
the LORD is his name.

Pharaoh’s chariots and his army  
he has hurled into the sea.

The best of Pharaoh’s officers  
are drowned in the Red Sea.

The deep waters have covered them;  
they sank to the depths like a stone.

Your right hand, LORD,  
was majestic in power.

Your right hand, LORD,  
shattered the enemy.

“In the greatness of your majesty  
you threw down those who opposed you.

You unleashed your burning anger;  
it consumed them like stubble.

By the blast of your nostrils  
the waters piled up.

The surging waters stood up like a wall;  
the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea.

The enemy boasted,  
'I will pursue, I will overtake them.  
I will divide the spoils;  
I will gorge myself on them.  
I will draw my sword  
and my hand will destroy them.'  
But you blew with your breath,  
and the sea covered them.  
They sank like lead  
in the mighty waters.  
Who among the gods  
is like you, LORD?  
Who is like you—  
majestic in holiness,  
awesome in glory,  
working wonders?

**Gospel Acclamation:** Praise and honour to you, Jesus Christ. Glory to your name.

**Cantor:** *I will leave this place and go to my father and say: 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.'*

**Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 12-24 32**

Inclusive Text

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say...So he spoke this parable: A man had two sons.

The younger said to his father, 'Father, let me have a share of the estate that would come to me.'

So the father divided the property between them.

A few days later the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of loose living.

When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating, but no one offered him anything.

Then he came to his senses and said, 'How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here I am dying of hunger!

'I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants.

So he left the place and went back to his father.

While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly.

Then the son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.'

But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.'

'Bring the calf we have been fattening and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life, he was lost and is found!'

And they began to celebrate.

**MV 119** "God Our Protector"

God our protector, keep us in mind,  
always give strength to your people.

For if we could be with you one day in time  
it is better than a thousand without you.

**Contemporary Word: This is Our Story: Singing in the Wilderness**

**Laura:** "The Father's Song"

Matt Redman

**OFFERTORY**

**Offertory Invitation**

One: Lent calls us to be mindful of all that we take in and all that we give out.  
We take in the Good News, we give of our time our talent and our money  
so that others might experience new possibilities.

**Teach Me to Dance**

*Teach me to dance to the beat of Your heart  
Teach me to move in the pow'r of Your Spirit  
Teach me to walk in the light of Your presence  
Teach me to dance to the beat of Your heart  
Teach me to love with Your heart of compassion  
Teach me to trust in the word of Your promise  
Teach me to hope in the day of Your coming  
Teach me to dance to the beat of Your heart*

You wrote the rhythm of life  
Created heaven and earth  
In You is joy without measure  
So like a child in Your sight  
I dance to see Your delight  
For I was made for Your pleasure pleasure

*Teach me to ...*

Let all my movements express  
A heart that loves to say yes  
A will that leaps to obey You  
Let all my energy blaze  
To see the joy in Your face  
Let my whole being praise You praise You

*Teach me to dance ...*

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## **Offertory Prayer**

**ALL: We have given freely and joyfully. We trust that what we give in this community is shared with others so that they might experience the good news of Jesus Christ.**

## **AFFIRMING**

### **Prayers of the People**

#### **A New Creed (sung)**

A. Aitchinson

We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

## SCATTERING

### Announcements

### Words of Mission

One: Let us take on this week's life with renewed hope and imagination...

***The candle is extinguished.***

As the spirit teaches inwardly, may we involve ourselves in the grander issues of life:

**ALL: those issues which make a compelling difference, which create the good life for all humanity.**

RHolmes/rhw

**and lead us into ever deepening relationships with all of life.**

G.G.Brooks

**MV 209** "Go, Make a Difference"

Go make a difference. We can make a difference.

Go make a difference in the world. (2X)

### Blessing Words

One: And may the holy mystery of God be found along the road.

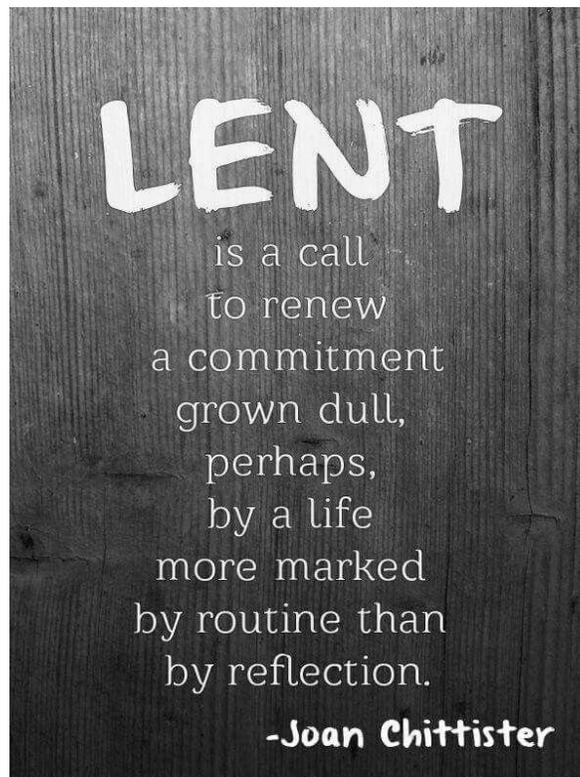
The wonder of the costly love of Jesus embrace you.

And the Spirit bless and keep you, always.

D. McRae-McMahon

**VU 969** "Amen, Amen, Amen"

### Postlude



# Announcements and Upcoming Events

## CHURCH BOARD

Our board next meets on **Monday April 15 @7:30 PM** in the Jessie Scott room.



Games Night is the 2<sup>ND</sup> Saturday of each month. The next Games Night is **Saturday April 13 5:00-10:00 PM**. Everyone is welcome.

### **April ACTION SUNDAY is Easter Sunday**

Nicole and Dee will be coordinating the community brunch on April 21. As this is a long weekend we will need everyone who is in town to be part of the service. **Let's work together this Easter to feed our neighbours like family!**

### **2019 Seed-Starting Workshop-SATURDAY APRIL 6 1:30-3:30**

We have a blast every spring at our hands-on seed-starting workshop. This free event for all ages gives everyone a chance to come together, learn some fascinating facts about how plants grow, and get their hands in the dirt (even if it is potted dirt). You'll have the chance to plant some seeds for Garden@Kimbourne and to go home with pots of your own as well.

**Space is limited, so please register at <http://bit.ly/gaks2019>.**

The event takes place in our hall.



### **PIE SALES IN SUPPORT OF THE MISSION AND SERVICE FUND**

Our pies, which are made by Kimbourne pie-makers are delicious and the proceeds go to the United Church's Mission and Service Fund which supports ministries and programs in Canada and around the world.

They are always available in a variety of flavours and in two sizes. They can be purchased baked or frozen to bake at your convenience at home. **Speak to Suzanne Bond** to order your favourite pie.

### **Food Bank Donations for Glen Rhodes UC Food Program**

Boxes to receive non-perishable food and health and hygiene products for the **Glen Rhodes Food Program** are located in the narthex (lobby) near the elevator door.

We also collect purses (large) and feminine hygiene products for **The Period Purse** which advocates for and provides products to marginalized menstruators in shelters and on the streets of Toronto.



We offer to you, O God, our prayers for those who seek justice and resist evil. We pray for those who need your presence and strength to stand firm; for those who are opposed to the use of violence in any form. We pray for those who are prepared to be firm to protect those in danger. We pray for those who walk with others who need strength. We pray for those who protest, those who organize letter campaigns, those who give sacrificially on behalf of others.

We pray for those who speak the unpopular truth; who protect the unpopular victims; who choose the unpopular path of peace.

We pray for those who do not let their desire for peace hinder the requirements of justice, and for those who do not let their zeal for justice override the call for peace.

Neil Parker

## No Matter What

Calum Scott

When I was a young boy I was scared of growing up  
I didn't understand it but I was terrified of love  
Felt like I had to choose but it was outta my control  
I needed to be saved, I was going crazy on my own

It took me years to tell my mother, I expected the worst  
I gathered all the courage in the world

*She said, "I love you no matter what  
I just want you to be happy and always be who you are"  
She wrapped her arms around me  
Said, "Don't try to be what you're not  
'Cause I love you no matter what"  
She loves me no matter what*

I got a little older wishing all my time away  
Riding on the pavement, every sunny day was grey  
I trusted in my friends then all my world came crashing down  
I wish I never said a thing 'cause to them I'm a stranger now

I ran home I saw my mother, it was written on my face  
Felt like I had a heart of glass about to break

She said, "I love you no matter what...

Now I'm a man and I'm so much wiser  
I walk the earth with my head held higher  
I got the love that I need  
But I was still missing one special piece  
My father looked at me

*He said "I love you no matter what  
I just want you to be happy and always be who you are"  
He wrapped his arms around me  
Said, "Don't try to be what you're not  
'Cause I love you no matter what"  
He loves me no matter what  
And they love me no matter what*