



Order of Worship
March 22nd 2020

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP *"Prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org"*

God is in the water that restores our soul.
And God is in the night when we lose our way.
God is in today and tomorrow, raising up leaders, prophets and dreamers.
And God is in the wilderness with us—every step of the way.
So with confidence we declare—
If God is in those spaces, then God is surely here.
Let us worship the God of creation.
Let us worship the God of wilderness spaces.

OPENING PRAYER

God of the desert and God of the garden,
your son went into the wilderness.
And there he sat.
And there he prayed.
And there he dreamed
of a life more abundant for others.
As we root down for an uncertain time,
and consider how we've grown apart,
may we rest as needed and sprout new thoughts
for those less able to rest.
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

God meets us in the wilderness.
God is with us as we walk this unique Lenten journey.
God tells each of us this:
You are my child, you are loved, you are forgiven, and you are mine.

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION no. 288 *Spirit of the Living God*

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me...melt me, mold me, fill me, use me...

SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 23

REFLECTION

Rev. Ashley McFaul-Erwin

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

**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.

--A New Creed of the United Church of Canada

HYMN no. 802 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* (solo by Liam Butchart)

The King of love my Shepherd is,

Whose goodness faileth never;

I nothing lack if I am his

And he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow

My ransomed soul he leadeth,

And where the verdant pastures grow

With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,

But yet in love he sought me,

And on his shoulder gently laid,

And home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill

With thee, dear Lord, beside me;

Thy rod and staff my comfort still,

Thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;

Thy unction, grace bestoweth:

And O what transport of delight

From thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days

Thy goodness faileth never;

Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise

Within thy house for ever.

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF DEDICATION, THANKSGIVING, AND INTERCESSION

HYMN no. 450 *Be Thou My Vision*

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;

naught be all else to me, save that thou art;

thou my best thought, by day or by night,

waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;

I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;

thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;

raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;

thou, mine inheritance, now and always;

thou and thou only, first in my heart,

High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,

may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,

still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

BENEDICTION

Goodness and mercy go with us.

Relentlessly, they pursue us.

Even in the midst of valleys that make us tremble,

even when evil draws near,

still the gifts of God will not yield.

Sacred provisions surround us.

Let us go in the confidence of God's care for us

as we follow Christ wherever Love leads.

POSTLUDE

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Stuart Campbell, Clerk

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