



**Salisbury United Church**  
**March 1, 2026**  
*Second Sunday in Lent*  
**Welcome to Worship!**



**Welcome & Announcements**

**Acknowledgement of Territory**

**Hymn Medley:**

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say; #626VU, vv. 1 & 3

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."  
I came to Jesus as I was, weary and worn and sad;  
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;  
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."  
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk till travelling days are done.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness; #288VU, vv. 1 & 3

Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!*  
*Morning by morning new mercies I see:*  
*all I have needed thy hand hath provided--*  
*Great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow –  
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide. (R)



As We Gather at Your Table; #457VU

As we gather at your table,  
as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence;  
let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet  
how to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness  
in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve you,  
bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us, Christ, your great compassion  
to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image  
in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon  
other guests to share that feast  
where triumphant Love will welcome  
those who had been last and least.  
There no more will envy blind us  
nor will pride our peace destroy,  
as we join with saints and angels  
to repeat the sounding joy.



**Call To Prayer: (remain standing)**

God of mystery and surprise, we are searching for the location of your presence.

**In the stories of creation, you are there in the vastness and beauty of the natural world.**

The people of God located you on mountain tops, in a tent of meeting, in the words of prophets and in a temple.

**Following Jesus, people found you in his life, death and resurrection, as well as in the poor and suffering ones of the world.**

Sometimes we call our church building a house of God and we understand that we meet you here in worship, prayers and music.

**In this Sunday morning gathering we do not ask for a single answer.**

We ask for your divine loving presence to embrace us, love us, forgive us, and guide us as the abiding Spirit at the heart of our lives.

## Welcoming Each Other In:

*(We greet each other with open hands of hospitality before sitting down)*

## Welcoming the Light of Christ:

Let us continue our Lenten journey.

**As we receive the light of this day,  
we take our next step along the way.**

As the journey of Lent continues, we light the Christ Candle.

*(The Christ Candle is lit)*



Keeping company with Christ, we also light the purple candles as markers for the remaining Sundays between now and Holy Week.

*(five purple candles are lit)*



Let us remain on the way with Christ.

**We will continue to proclaim his presence,  
though time should dissolve  
and the end itself come in sight.**

May we do so with love and courage.

**The Light of Christ is with us, between us and all around us.  
Thanks be to God.**

## A Pause to Rest in Peace: *(A time of silence)*

May the peace of Christ be with you all!

**And also with you!**



## Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer:

God, in whom both day and night are filled with the light of your presence, if we come to you by day, openly and unguardedly, you receive us. If we come to you at night, slipping in among the shadows of uncertainty, you receive us. Either way, you open yourself to us and speak to us words of both consolation and challenge. We hope we can be open to what you are saying to us, by sun or moon, in open inquiry or secret consultation, under the covers of darkness or by the broad light of day.

**This is why we pray together, saying, ...**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**



**Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever, amen.**

## Hymn: I Have Decided to Follow Jesus; #149TLUS

I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
no turning back, no turning back,  
no turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, I still will follow;  
though none go with me, I still will follow;  
though none go with me, I still will follow;  
no turning back, no turning back,  
no turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me;  
the world behind me, the cross before me;  
the world behind me, the cross before me;  
no turning back, no turning back,  
no turning back, no turning back.

## Nursery Rhyme Time:

God loves you,  
God loves me,  
Stand up tall just like a tree,  
Now touch your toes and give yourself a hug,  
In God's love we all belong.

## Hymn: Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New; #115MV

Behold, behold, I make all things new,  
beginning with you and starting from today.  
Behold, behold, I make all things new,  
my promise is true, for I am Christ the way.

## Scripture Reading: John 3: 1-15 (NIV)

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, **"Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God.**

**For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."**

Jesus replied,

**"Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."**

Nicodemus asked;

**"How can someone be born when they are old? Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"**

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

**He said, "You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going.**

So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus then asked,

"How can this be?"

**"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still people do not accept our testimony."**

Jesus said, "I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?"

**No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.**

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

All: Acclamation


This is the Word of God.

**Herein lies wisdom. Thanks be to God!**

**Salisbury Singers: Are You Lost?**

***Love invites us and unites us...***

***... to be better than we've been***

**Scripture Reading:** Numbers 21:4-9; 16-19 (Inclusive Bible) 

The Israelites traveled from Mount Hor along the road to the Sea of Reeds in order to avoid Edom. But the people grew impatient along the way, and they grumbled to God and Moses:

**"Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? We have no bread! We have no water! And we are disgusted with this terrible food!"**

Then Yahweh sent venomous snakes among the people. They fatally bit many of the people. So the people came to Moses and said,

**"We spoke against Yahweh and against you. Intercede for us, and ask that God remove the snakes from us."**

So Moses prayed for the people. And Yahweh said to Moses, "Make a bronze snake and put it on the end of a pole. Anyone who is bitten and looks at it will live." So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then whenever the people were bitten by a snake, they looked at the bronze snake and lived...

From there they continued on to Be'er, "The Well," which is the well where Yahweh said to Moses,

**"Call the people together and I will give them water."**

It was there that Israel sang this song:

"Spring up, O well!

Sing songs about it!

The well that our leaders dug,

that the nobles of our people created –

the nobles with their scepters and staffs."

Then they left the desert and traveled to Mattanah, then to Nahaliel, then to Bamoth...

All: Acclamation

May this reading be a lamp to our feet,

**And a light to our path.**

**Meditation/Sermon:** Rev. Britt Aerhart

**Hymn:** Bread of Life, Feed My Soul; #194MV

Bread of life, feed my soul,  
as the presence of the Spirit makes me whole.

Bread of life fill my heart  
with the grace and mercy you impart.

*I have heard your voice calling,  
"Come, my friend, and share in the feast  
that is laid out for you  
to show how much I care."*

*(continued...)*



Bread of life, help me live  
a life as pure and true as Jesus did.  
Bread of life, help me see  
the boundless love of Christ for you and me.

*I have heard your voice calling,  
"Come, my friend, and share in the feast  
that is laid out for you  
to show how much I care."*

Bread of life, feed my soul,  
as the presence of the Spirit it makes me whole.  
Bread of life, fill my heart  
with the grace and mercy you impart.

### Acknowledgement of Offering:

We recognise that the greatest gift is the gift of love.  
May our offerings distribute this love to the world:  
the small world we inhabit with the suffering people we  
know; the larger world where the power of love is sorely  
needed.



(source: unknown)

### Sacrament of Communion

#### Invitation to Communion:

Here is the table.

**It belongs not to the church but to God.**

And here we are.

**We also belong to God.**

God invites us all to come to the table  
and share the food that is offered here.

**All God's children are invited,  
every single one!**



#### Communion and Offering Prayer:

Holy God, we praise you.

**Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad.**

We bless you for creating the whole world,  
**for your promises to your people Israel,**  
and for Jesus Christ in whom your fullness dwells.

Born of Mary, **he joins us.**

Eating with sinners, **he welcomes us.**

Talking with children, **he teaches us.**

Visiting the sick, **he heals us.**

Journeying to Jerusalem, **he leads us.**  
Dying on the cross, **he restores us.**  
Rising from the dead, **he transforms us.**  
Sharing his Spirit, **he empowers us.**

Because of everything he means to us  
we bring ourselves to the table of communion with him.

**We recall that at the end of his life he broke  
bread and shared a cup one last time with  
his friends.**

With thanksgiving we break this bread.

*(the bread is broken)*

With thanksgiving we fill this cup.

*(the cup is filled and lifted)*

We do this and remember.

**We proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**Bless us now, O God, and the broken bread and poured out  
cup, with the presence of your Holy Spirit.**

Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast.

**Help us to continue to do these things together until the day  
comes when creation is fulfilled and everything begins again.**

And so we praise you, eternal God,  
through Christ, your Word made flesh,  
and in the power of your life giving Spirit,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

#### The Sharing of the Bread and the Cup:

"The gifts of God for the people of God."

#### The Prayer After Sharing:

**Gracious God, we have tasted the broken  
bread. We have drunk from the upraised  
cup. Increase our love for Jesus and for  
everything that is unfinished and  
uncertain in our lives and world. Keep us  
firm in faith. Enliven our hope that we,  
despite death, are alive in you. In Jesus'  
name we pray, Amen.**



## Extinguishing the Candles for Lent 2:

We extinguish the second Lenten candle, the next marker on our journey through the days and weeks leading up to Easter.



*(the next Lenten candle is extinguished)*

As the journey of Lent continues we will continue to proclaim the Light of Christ so long as we have breath to pray and sing.



*(The Light of Christ is extinguished).*

The light of Christ can never really be extinguished. It simply changes form and moves as a blessing over the four directions of the world.

**May all people dwell in the light of God's kindness and love!  
Amen.**

**Hymn:** One More Step Along the World I Go; #639VU, vv. 1 & 3-5

One more step along the world I go,  
one more step along the world I go,  
from the old things to the new,  
keep me travelling along with you:

*And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me travelling along with you.*

As I travel through the bad and good,  
keep me travelling the way I should;  
where I see no way to go  
you'll be telling me the way, I know: (R)

Give me courage when the world is rough,  
keep me loving though the world is tough,  
leap and sing in all I do,  
keep me travelling along with you: (R)

You are older than the world can be,  
you are younger than the life in me,  
ever old and ever new,  
keep me travelling along with you: (R)

## Blessing:

May God's peace go before you and God's kindness behind you and God's comfort beside you.  
In the name of Christ. Amen.



## Sung Blessing: African American Amen

### Music Copyright Permissions

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say; Public Domain*  
*Great Is Thy Faithfulness; Hope Publishing Company, 2019*  
*As We Gather at Your Table; Hope Publishing Company, 1989*  
*I Have Decided to Follow Jesus; public domain*  
*Behold, I Make All Things New; WGRG c/o Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 1995*  
*Bread of Life, Feed My Soul; Stephen Spencer & Rick Gunn, 2005*  
*One More Step Along the World I Go; Sydney Carter, 1976*  
*African American Amen*  
**Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-620863. All rights reserved**

**HOPE**  
IN STRATHCONA



POST RECOVERY ADDICTION SERVICES

**SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR NEXT BOTTLE DRIVE MARCH  
26TH & 27TH!**

Time to save your bottles! Our next bottle drive will take place March 26th & 27th, 10am-3pm both days. During the bottle drive, donations can be dropped off in the church parking lot, where a group of wonderful volunteers will be eagerly awaiting to off-load your donations. **Half of all proceeds will be donated to Hope in Strathcona**, an organization offering post recovery addiction services.

**"FILL THE PEW" LENTEN FOOD DRIVE:**

**February 18<sup>th</sup>-April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

During Lent we will be holding a food drive to benefit the Strathcona Food Bank. If you'd like to participate, please bring in canned or dry goods and other non-perishable items. We will be collecting them in the pew in the Narthex - look for the signs. Lenten Food Drive donations for the Food Bank will be collected until April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Thank you for your generous  
support of our community!**



## MEDITATION CIRCLE - EVERY WEDNESDAY @ 10AM



Meditation Circle, held Wednesdays at 10am, continues in-person in the church meditation room and online! Find details on our website (salisburyunited.ca) under the “Weekly Meditation Circle” section on the main page.

## LOOKING FOR HELP SUNDAY MORNINGS

If you're able to help Sundays at 10:00am, to set up a few tables & chairs in the auditorium, it would be greatly appreciated.



### Finance Corner

As of the end of January, 2026, our offering status for 2026 is:

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Offerings for Church Operations:	\$6,470.00	\$6,785.00	(\$315.00)
M&S Offerings:	\$1,120.00	\$1,263.67	(\$143.67)

Special donations have covered roof replacement costs (Yahoo!!). So far we have not had to dip into our GIC reserves!! Expenses in January were in line with budget expectations. (Roof and fire panel replacement costs were consistent with budget 2026.)

Remember, if you donate through PAR (pre-authorized remittance), please review your monthly contributions for the new year to ensure we keep ahead of inflation and increased Property expenses. Contact the church office with any revisions.

*As we continue a new year in the life of Salisbury United Church, thank you for your continued financial support.*

If you need any help with giving envelopes – new supply, pick-up, etc. – or other giving options (monthly giving through PAR, e-transfer or donating online through Canada Helps on the Salisbury Website), please contact: Brittany at the Church Office.

**Phone: 780-467-7310**

# HOLY WEEK

## WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

**Palm Sunday, March 29th**  
10:30 AM

**Good Friday, April 3rd**  
7:00 PM

**Easter Sunday, April 5th**  
With Communion  
10:30 AM

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**  
Worship Services are in-person & online via YouTube

**Salisbury United Church**  
2 Mission Street  
Sherwood Park, AB T8A 0V3