



Salisbury United Church
March 9, 2025
First Sunday in Lent
Welcome to Worship!



Welcome & Announcements

Acknowledgement of Territory

Hymn Medley:

Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights; #108VU, vv. 1-2 & 5

Throughout these Lenten days and nights
 we turn to walk the inward way,
 where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
 we live in hope till Easter day.

The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God,
 who found in weakness greater power,
 embraces us, through lost and flawed,
 and leads us to his Rising Hour.



So let us choose the path of One
 who wore, for us, the crown of thorn,
 and slept in death that we might wake
 to life on Resurrection Morn!

Me Alone; #118MV

Me alone, me alone in-a the wilderness.
 Forty days and forty nights in-a the wilderness.

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

*Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
 daily walking close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

I am weak, but thou art strong;
 Jesus, keep me from all the wrong;
 I'll be satisfied as long
 as I walk, let me walk close to thee. (R)

Through this world of toil and snares,
 if I falter, Lord, who cares?
 Who with me my burden shares?
 None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. (R)

When my feeble life is o'er,
 time for me will be no more;
 guide me gently, safely o'er
 to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore. (R)

Call To Prayer: *(remain standing)*

God is Holy Mystery, beyond complete knowledge,
 above perfect description.

**Yet, in love, the one eternal God seeks
 relationship.**

So God creates the universe and with it the
 possibility of being and relating.

**God tends the universe, mending the broken
 and reconciling the estranged.**

God enlivens the universe, guiding all things toward
 harmony with their Source.

Grateful for God's loving action, we cannot keep from singing.



(Source: "A Song of Faith", The United Church of Canada)

Welcoming Each Other In:

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

Welcoming the Light of Christ:

As we begin our Lenten journey,
as we receive the light of this day,
 we take our first steps along the way.

As the journey of Lent begins, we light the Lenten candles.

Lent is a journey of reflection and preparation we make each year.

On the good road of Lent, we journey together, never alone.

These candles remind us that we are surrounded by the community of
 faith.

(we light the six Lenten candles)



We are also surrounded by the blessing of the light of Christ.

**Let us proclaim the presence of the light of Christ while there is
 still time.**

(the Christ Candle is lit)



**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 of Lent and of all our times of challenge and trial, we come together today to start our common journey toward resurrection.

This journey invites us toward deeper reflection, prayer and insight.

Tuning our heartstrings, listening for Christ's call, we come seeking of the song of faith you are giving us to sing together now and on into the future.

May your Spirit push us into discernment, just as Jesus was pushed into the wilderness to gain clarity about his own priorities.

May the words of our mouths and the song in all our hearts be acceptable to you, O God, our rock and our redeemer.

This we pray as we say, ...

**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: All People That on Earth Do Dwell; pg. 822VU, vv. 1 & 2
(slow tempo)

All people that on earth do dwell,
sing out your faith with cheerful voice;
delight in God whose praise you tell,
whose presence calls you to rejoice.

Know that there is one God, indeed,
who fashions us without our aid,
who claims us, gives us all we need,
whose tender care will never fade.

Discovery Time: The Music Which Warms Your Heart

Hymn: All People That on Earth Do Dwell; pg. 822VU, vv. 3 & 4
(more lively tempo)

Enter the sacred gates with praise,
with joy approach the temple walls.
Extol and bless our God always
as people whom the Spirit calls.

Proclaim again that God is good,
whose mercy is forever sure,
whose truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

Scripture Reading: Luke 4:1-13 (NIV) 

All: Acclamation

This is the Word of God.

Herein lies wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Salisbury Singers: "I've Got a Name"; by Norman Gimble

***Moving me down the highway
Rolling me down the highway
Moving ahead so life won't pass me by***

Reflective Reading: "A Song of Faith"

A United Church Statement of Faith, 2006

With the Church through the ages, we speak of God as one and triune:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We also speak of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer

God, Christ, and Spirit,

Mother, Friend, and Comforter,

and as Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love.

We speak of God in ways that are faithful to the One on whom our hearts rely,

the fully shared life at the heart of the universe....

who made humans to live and move and have their being in God....

We sing of a church seeking to continue

the story of Jesus by embodying Christ's presence in the world.

We sing of God's mission.

Discernment: Singing Our Faith

Hymn: Be Thou My Vision: #642VU, vv. 1, 2, 4 & 5

Be thou my vision, O joy 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, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, after 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.

Acknowledgement of Offering:

Minute for Mission (*Second Sunday of Each Month*)

(a short story about some aspect of the work of the United Church compassionate fund, the Mission and Service Fund, leading into the offering)



Prayers for the Journey: Musical Congregational Prayer

O God, you be our song,
and we will be the singers.

Thank you for the music all around us.
Each morning we hear it from the moment we open our ears;
the low notes of wind around the eaves,
the whoosh of water as it comes from the tap,
the glug glug as it drains,
the throaty whistle of the boiling kettle,
the metallic tap of the spoon against the cup,
the jazz percussion of our feet on the steps,
the sounds of our day,
so familiar we hardly pay attention.
Thank you for the ability to hear.

O God, you be our song,
and we will be the singers.

Thank you for the sounds of life:
the chatter of the squirrel,
the deep purr of a cat,
the sharp calls of a blue jay,
the sound of someone we love laughing.
Give us wisdom to complete this day with
rhythm and lyrics that affirm, encourage, and cherish,
leading us to together sing a song which affects
the world in a positive way.

O God, you be our song,
and we will be the singers.

We pray for all who sing a sad song today;
the grieving, the lonely, the lost.
We pray especially for those who have lost their voice
and feel silenced or oppressed.
There are many singing freedom songs around our world,
and so today we pray for the safety of these singers.
Give their song the strength to convince and convert,
and the power to ward off war, because
there are too many war songs,
and we don't want to hear another one.

(prayers in silence)

O God, you be our song,
and we will be the singers.

Thank you for your songs, love songs, which we are invited to sing.
Thank you for all the parts you've made for the song;
high voices, low voices,
young piping voices, elder crooning voices,
the crazy baby descant,
the hesitant tones of new singers,
the steady pull of voices who have already picked up to the song.
There is a part for all of us in your love song
and we thank you for all the parts that join us together
as one sustaining body of song.

O God, you be our song,
and we will be the singers.

You, O God, are the Great Composer.
We long to be composed each day in your image,
singing your sweet score truly, clearly,
following your rhythm by heart,
finding our voice in your beautiful world,
hearing you in the music of life.

This is our prayer,
that you be the song and we be the singers.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

(Source: <https://carolpenner.typepad.com/leadinginworship/2011/06/music-prayer.html>, adapted)

Extinguishing the Candles:

We extinguish the Lenten candles,
weekly markers on our journey through the 40 days of Lent,
and we take our leave of the community of
faith gathered in worship.

(Lenten candles are extinguished)



We will continue to proclaim
the Light of Christ in word and song, after we leave this place.
Even as we say goodbye to the light of Christ, we know that
the light of Christ can never really be extinguished.
It simply changes form and moves with us
as a blessing over the four directions of the world.



(The Light of Christ is extinguished)

Hymn: Take Up His Song; #213MV (*faith, love, hope, peace*)
(*Salisbury Singers come forward*)

Take up his song of faith and go into the world.
Take up his song of faith in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey,
we're laying down our lives; lay them down, in faith,
lay them down, and take up his song.

Take up his song of love and go into the world.
Take up his song of love in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey,
we're laying down our lives; lay them down, in love,
lay them down, and take up his song.

Take up his song of hope and go into the world.
Take up his song of hope in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey,
we're laying down our lives; lay them down, in hope,
lay them down, and take up his song.

Take up his song of peace and go into the world.
Take up his song of peace in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey,
we're laying down our lives; lay them down, in peace,
lay them down, and take up his song.

Blessing:

As children of our timeless God, our time-bound
lives will ultimately find completion in our all-
embracing Creator.

**In the meantime, let us embrace the present,
returning love to God and our neighbours,
embodying hope, loving our enemies, caring
for the earth, choosing life.**

Grateful for God's loving action, we go forth and
we cannot keep from singing.

Amen.

May God the Singer and Christ the Song and the
Holy Spirit, Keeper of the Rhythm, accompany you and lead you as
you go.

Amen.

Sung Amen: Amen; #974VU

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!

Postlude

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**EASTER DEVOTIONAL - "LIFT UP YOUR VOICE:
SINGING THROUGH LENT AND EASTER"**

A Devotional will be available each week of Lent to accompany our theme of "Discerning Our Song". These Devotionals will be available in the Narthex, please take one.



SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR NEXT BOTTLE DRIVE

MARCH 27TH & 28TH - 9:00am TO 1:00pm

Time to save your bottles! Our next bottle drive will take place at the church parking lot on Thursday, March 27th and Friday, March 28th, from 9:00 am-1:00 pm both days. Half of all proceeds will be donated to support the United Church of Canada Humanitarian Aid for Ukraine. Thank you for your generous donations!



SOMETHING SACRED -- LENTEN STUDY 2025

TUESDAYS AT 1:00-2:00 PM ET,

MARCH 11 - APRIL 15, 2025

[In this six-week series](#), join Rev. Stephen Fetter and people from across the country to explore some of the readings from Something Sacred, our new devotional resource. Join us as we explore how music unveils something awesome, something more, something faithful, something honest, something grace-filled, something hopeful, something sacred.



MEDITATION CIRCLE - WEDNESDAYS @ 10am

Please join us in-person each Wednesday at 10am in the Church's Meditation Room.



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.

STRATHCONA COUNTY FOOD BANK DONATIONS



Please continue to bring non-perishable items for the Strathcona Food Bank. There is a yellow bin in the Narthex for donations along with a list of most-needed items.



Finance Corner

Update for February 2025

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income:	\$43,694.39	\$40,743.66
Expense:	\$38,704.59	\$54,745.84
	\$4,989.80	(\$14,002.18)

il results for the first two months of 2025 are quite encouraging. Here are the year-to-date highlights compared to budget as of February 28th:

Net Income (total income less total expenses)

We have a positive net income, compared to a budgeted deficit. The difference between our actual net income vs. budgeted net income is nearly \$19,000.

Income (revenue)

\$2950 more than budgeted with Local Envelopes +\$777, Investment Income +\$1600 and Rentals +\$2448.

Expenses

\$16,300 less than budgeted with Property expenses -\$5217, UCC Assessment -\$9372 (due to amortizing over 12 months versus entire amount budgeted in Feb).

Thanks for helping our new year get off to a positive start!

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