

St. John's United Church
March 22nd, 2025
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Worship Leader – Rev. Sungsoon Park

WELCOME

Greetings, welcoming newcomers, announcements, prayer concerns and celebrations.

We are looking for more choir members and musicians.
If you're interested, please join us.

CENTERING SONG MV # 17 God in the Darkness vs. 3

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

As we light the Christ Candle,
we warmly remember that Jesus is the Light of the World.
During this Lenten season, may Christ's gentle light guide us on our faith journey,
inviting us to embrace humility, renewal, and a deeper trust in His grace.

Let this flame be a beautiful symbol of the transformation Christ offers—
renewing our spirits, cleansing our hearts, and filling us with courage and hope. Amen.
The Christ candle is lit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

In seasons of shadow and light, God calls us together.
We come seeking the One who sees beyond appearances.
When the world measures worth by power or status,
God looks upon the heart.
Once we walked in darkness.
Now Christ opens our eyes to the light.
Come, let us worship the God who restores our sight.
We gather to walk in the light of Christ.

Regular Office Hours

10:00am-12:00pm Tuesday and Thursday
Office: 780.826.3003

E-mail: bonnyvilleunited@gmail.com
Website: www.bonnyvilleunitedchurch.ca

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.
If you would like to continue with weekly offerings they can be sent in by:

Mail to: 4510-43Ave T9N 1R4
E-Transfer to: bonnyvilleunited@gmail.com
Join PAR: Contact Stacy Mercier 780.812.6492

This Week: March 22nd, 2026

Worship Leader: Rev. Sungsoon Park
Greeters: Millie Highberg & Bev Bowers
Scripture: Kathy Cobler
Fellowship: Bev Cameron & Nancy Hite
Communion: Bim Bowers & Marilyn Thornton

Next Week: March 29th, 2026

Worship Leader: Rev. Sungsoon Park
Greeters: Roger Antoniuk & Nestor Kunec
Scripture: Donna Worden
Fellowship: Pat Wood & Rita Goodheart

Out of the depths have I called to you. O God, hear my cry!

Let your ears be attentive to my plea for mercy.

If you should keep account of what is done amiss, O God, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you, therefore we will honour you.

Refrain: Out of the depths I cry to you, my hope is in your promise true.

I wait for you God: my soul waits, and in your word is my hope.

My soul waits for God more than the watchers long for morning, more than the watchers long for morning.

O Israel, wait in hope, for with God here is love unfailing.

With God is great power to redeem, to redeem you, Israel, from all your sins.

Refrain: Out of the depths I cry to you, my hope is in your promise true.

SERMON Reflection

HYMN VU # 326 O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

COMMISSIONING

Go now into the valleys of this world.

We go with the breath of God within us.

Where there is despair, speak hope. Where there is grief, offer compassion. Where systems keep people confined, work for freedom.

For the Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells among us.

And may the love of God, the life of Christ, and the breath of the Holy Spirit go with you and grant you courage.

Amen.

BENEDICTION HYMN

LENT – 5 *THE CANDLE OF HEALTH*

- *Two candles plus the Christ candle are lit.*

On this fifth Sunday of Lent, we light a candle to pray for wholeness and health for all living things.

We rest in the glow of this light, lifting our hopes and prayers for healing.

As we recognize the value of health, we acknowledge our concerns about the illnesses that affect our world.

We grieve the sicknesses that afflict bodies, minds, and spirits.

We lament the suffering they bring.

We also grieve the wounds of creation—the decline of our natural world and its impact on our lives.

We confess our part in this brokenness and seek renewal for the Earth.

As the shadows of Lent move ever closer, we now extinguish this candle, just for today.

Even in the darkness, we commit ourselves to healing what is sick and mending what is broken.

May God guide us toward wholeness, restoring all that needs grace.

Amen.

HYMN VU # 108 Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights vs. 5

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you

And also with you.

CHILDREN'S TIME

OPENING PRAYER

Holy and life-giving God, you meet us in places we would rather avoid—

in valleys of loss, in tombs of grief, and in the quiet spaces where hope feels fragile.

Yet even there, your Spirit moves.

Breathe upon us once more today.

Open our ears to your voice.

Open our hearts to compassion.

Open our lives to the transforming power of love.

As Jesus called Lazarus from the tomb, may He also call us out of whatever holds us back, whether it is fear, despair, injustice, or indifference,

so we can embrace a fuller life as Your people in the world.

(All) We pray in the spirit of Christ, who is the resurrection and life. Amen.

OPENING HYMN VU # 108 Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of life, you breathe hope into dry places, yet we confess that we sometimes lose heart.

We confess that we have settled for despair when you invite us to hope.

We witness suffering around us—systems that oppress the vulnerable, grief that isolates, communities yearning for justice—**and sometimes we feel helpless or turn away.**

We confess the times we have remained silent when compassion was needed.

We confess the ways we have contributed to holding others captive.

Yet you are the One who opens graves and calls people into life.

Breathe your Spirit into us again, O God, and guide us toward courage, mercy, and justice. Amen.

WORD OF ASSURANCE

Friends, hear the good news.

The God who spoke to the bones in the valley is the same God who breathes life into us today.

Nothing—grief, fear, or even death itself—can ever separate us from the love of God in Christ.

The Spirit who raised Christ from the dead is already at work among us,

loosening what binds us and calling us into life.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION *(insert)*

HYMN MV # 79 Spirit, Open My Heart

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

DEDICATION SONG MV # 27

When with our hearts, our hands, our minds, we share our gifts with all the worlds, our spirits soar beyond the veil, to touch the very face of God.

Through hands that paint majestic skies, and voices chanting melody, with words that reach beyond the page, we comprehend your mystery.

DEDICATION PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ezekiel 37:11-14 pg. 838

Romans 8:6-11 pg. 195

John 11:1-16, 38-45 pg. 132, 133

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 130 VU pg. 853

Refrain: Out of the depths I cry to you, my hope is in your promise true.

LENT



The kingdom of God is at hand.

Mark 1:15