

The Spirit judges us critically when we abuse scripture

**by interpreting it narrow-mindedly,
using it as a tool of oppression, exclusion, or hatred.**

**The wholeness of scripture testifies
to the oneness and faithfulness of God.**

**The multiplicity of scripture testifies to its depth:
two testaments, four gospels,
contrasting points of view held in tension—
all a faithful witness to the One and Triune God,
the Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love.”**

(From The “Song of Faith” United Church of Canada, 2006)

Offering our Gifts

* **The Doxology: “What Can I Do”**

[More Voices #191]

Offertory Prayer

Preparing for Service During the Week

Announcements & Notices

* **Parting Hymn: “How firm a foundation”**

[Voices United #262, vv.1-3]

* Commissioning

Sung Blessing: “May the Love of the Lord”

[see inside front cover of Voices United]

Bulletin Dedication

For February birthdays:
James, Kate, Lillian, Neil
and especially Val Davies

Readings for next week

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

Minister: Elisabeth Bachem
Organist: Deirdre Morrell-Ormerod, B.Mus.Ed., Lic.Mus.M.M.

First Sunday in Lent

Gathering the Community

[* indicates to stand, if able]

The Organ Prelude will commence at 11:00 AM. Please remain seated and use the time during this period to prepare quietly for our time of worship together.

Organ Prelude
Welcome & Introduction to the Service
Lighting of the Christ Candle
Silence

* Call to Worship

Will you come into the wilderness with me?

We will walk with You.

Will you come into the desert with me?

We will walk with integrity.

Will you come onto the road to Jerusalem with me ?

We will walk with trust. And we begin today.

* Prayer of Gathering

**Mothering God,
Out of the womb, into the light, You push us in love.
out of childhood into adult responsibility
You push us in love.
Out of dependence into freedom and risk
You push us in love.
All this time under your wings
You would nurture us. Thanks and praise to you,
Mothering God.**

* Hymn: "As the sun with longer journey"
[Voices United #111]

Prayer of Confession (*seated*)
Invitation to Prayer
(*Bell sounds begin and end a time of silent prayer*)
Words of Assurance

Anthem: "Consider the lilies"

Hearing the Word

From the Older Testament: The story of Noah
(verses from chapters 6-9)

Psalm 84 [Voices United p.800]

The gospel reading: Mark 1:9-15
Baptism, Wilderness Testing, Beginning of Ministry

* Hymn: "I love to tell the story"
[Voices United #343]

Sermon Series: The BIG Questions
Today: "Are we supposed to believe this happened?" - Bible stories in Sunday School and Adulthood

A moment of Silence is kept

Responding to the Word

**"Scripture is our song for the journey, the living word
passed on from generation to generation
to guide and inspire,
that we might wrestle a holy revelation for our time
and place
from the human experiences
and cultural assumptions of another era.
God calls us to be doers of the word and not hearers
only.**

**The Spirit breathes revelatory power into scripture,
bestowing upon it a unique and normative place
in the life of the community.**