

# St. George & St. Andrew United Church

**Minister:** The Rev. Elisabeth Bachem-Jennings

**Organist:** Deirdre Morrell-Ormerod

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Lenten Theme: The Wilderness Journey

March 18, 2018

## 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

Come in, sit down, and look around - you are not alone!

**You, my neighbour in the pew - are you a seeker?  
Have you found what matters? Are you confident in  
the faith? Do you ever doubt our God?**

This is what matters this morning: God said: "Come all who are thirsty, come to the water, all you that have no money, come, buy and eat " - all come, rich and poor, confident or doubting, and those desperately hanging on ...

**And so it is with faith - all of us, bold and timid, seek  
spiritual sustenance ... let us worship God!**

\* Hymn: "Come to my heart" [Voices United #661]

## Prayer of Gathering

## Prayer of Confession

**Forgive me for the things I have done  
and not done.**

**Forgive me for the things I have said  
and not said.**

**Forgive me for the life I have lived  
and not lived.**

**That I might reflect the image  
of the one I profess to follow,  
in thought, word and deed,  
and in discovering my true self  
draw others into that light.**

(United Church of Christ)

*(Bell sounds begin and end a time of silent prayer)*

Words of Assurance

Anthem: "There is a balm in Gilead"

## Hearing the Word

A reading from: 1st Peter 3:13-17

Christian Living in trying times

**The Psalm: 137 p.858**

A reading from: John 12:20-36

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies...

\* Hymn: "When pain of the world"

[Voices United #591]

Sermon Series: The BIG Questions

Today: "How do we keep the faith with all the things  
that are happening in the world?"

A moment of Silence is kept

## Responding to the Word

Offering our Gifts

\* **The Doxology: "What Can I Do" [More Voices #191]**

**Offertory Prayer**

## Preparing for Service During the Week

**Affirmation of Faith**                      From “Song of Faith”, UCC 2004

**God is Holy Mystery,  
beyond complete knowledge,  
above perfect description.  
Yet,  
in love,  
the one eternal God seeks relationship ...  
In and with God,  
    we can direct our lives toward right relationship  
    with each other and with God.  
We can discover our place as one strand in the web of life.  
We can grow in wisdom and compassion.  
We can recognize all people as kin.  
We can accept our mortality and finitude, not as a curse,  
    but as a challenge to make our lives and choices matter.**

### **Prayers of the People**

**Lord's Prayer** (*sung*)                      **[Voices United #960]**

Announcements & Notices

**\* Parting Hymn: “All my hope” [Voices United # 655]**

\* Commissioning

**\* Sung Blessing: “May the Love of the Lord”**  
*[see inside front cover of Voices United]*

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### **Next week:**

**Theme: Why is there so much injustice in the world?**

Readings: Lamentations 3:49-60

Psalm 40              Voices United 764

2nd John 7:58- 8:11

We're the league of the guilty, after all, not the league of the  
shortly-to-become-good. We are a work in progress. We will always  
be a work in progress. We will always fail, and it will always matter.

Francis Spufford, “Unapologetic”