

**Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 Lent One  
11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service**

Prelude *Meditation* P. Hurford

Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgement  
Announcements  
Time of Silence  
Lighting the Christ Candle Stephanie Oja  
Call to Worship  
God of many Names, we have gathered in this place today and pray your Sacred Spirit to fill our very beings.  
**As we congregate in downtown Victoria, we remember the struggles of the people who wander the streets around this beautiful sanctuary...**  
We pray that The Sacred Spirit will help us realize we are all sparks of your divine activity and help us to live to deep respect for others.  
**We acknowledge our inter-connectedness with all your human family and with all life. We are woven into the web of life together.**  
Bless us as we enter the season of Lent, and bless the sacredness of all who worship anywhere on this beautiful sapphire planet. **Amen.**

\*Hymn MV12 *Come, Touch our Hearts* Light/Donaldson  
Gathering Prayer

**Holy Mystery; Divine Love; Creative Spirit; From the beginning you have animated and enlivened creation. You have implanted the yearning for peace, reconciliation, open-mindedness and grace in our hearts and souls. May we hold each other in prayer today and always. Amen.**

Time with the Children Emily MacDonald  
Children's Song *Draw the Circle Wide* (MV145, verse 1)  
Scripture Matthew 4: 1-11 Diana Jenks  
Anthem *A Prayer* R.H. Young

The Tenebrae The lighting of these candles symbolizes the light of Jesus, slowly but surely, fighting to overcome the darkness. The closer we get to Good Friday, the less light there is. On Good Friday itself, even the centre candle is extinguished, in addition to all of the exterior candles. This central candle, also known as the Christ candle, represents Jesus who we as Christians believe to be our Saviour; the pure light. Each of the outer candles has a Lament attached to it. This week, the first candle that we extinguish is or the Lament of HOMELESSNESS. It couldn't possibly be a more timely occasion to focus on this.

*: When we reflect on this theme of homelessness, we are challenged to think about all the things we long for in this world. In our work, we hold so much hope for each person who comes through our doors every day. We hope they can find a home. We hope they can find a*

*job. We hope they can reconcile with their family. We hope their mental health issues are stabilized. We hope they can kick their addictions. We hope and hope and hope for our friends on the street, that one day they can find joy in this life. So for this first week of Lent, it is indeed my hope that you will be reminded that one day all of the righteous hopes for our lives, as well as hopes for this broken world, will be fulfilled. In the meantime, we must continue to strive to bring this hope wherever we go as we strive to be one of the many signs of God in the Heart of the City.*

Sermon  
Hymn MV65 *When We Are Tested* Tune: Slane  
Offertory

**Unison Prayer of Dedication: God of great wonders, we praise you in this season of early spring. You give us life and breath, you fill the world with beauty, and challenge us to share the bounty in our hands. Bless these gifts we pray. Amen**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion  
As a people of Faith, I invite you to stand as you are able and say together A New Creed

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.  
We believe in God:  
Who has created and is creating,  
Who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
To reconcile and make new,  
Who works in us and others  
By the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church,  
To celebrate God's presence,  
To live with respect in Creation,  
To love and serve others,  
To seek justice and resist evil,  
To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
Our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving  
In the beginning,  
**When God was creating the world,**  
As the universes changed

