

**Sunday March 8, 2020 Second Sunday of Lent  
International Women's Day  
11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service**

Prelude *Campanile* D. Paxton

Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgement

Announcements

Time of Silence

Lighting the Christ Candle Stephanie Oja

Call to Worship:  
Spirit of the Living God, 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. We are woven into the web of life together.**

Bless us as we worship here, and bless the efforts of all who worship anywhere on this beautiful sapphire planet

**To be your hands and feet, your heart and your embodied generosity this day and always, Amen.**

\*Hymn MV10 *Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom* Duck/Kasbohm

Gathering Prayer: Spirit of Life, known by many names yet by no name fully known—we gather today with hopes and dreams and also with fears and wounds.

May we be reminded that all things come and go,

**That today's joys and today's sorrows will in time give way to those of tomorrow.**

Teach us that those of us who have strength to share today ought to do so while we can,

**And that those who are in need ought to allow ourselves to receive, for tomorrow those roles might well be reversed.**

Spirit of Life, mother and father of us all, help us to remember those who are not here with us today, those who need what we have found here and those who have what we here need.

**May we always be open to growth and change, to movement, to grace. In the name of all that is holy, Amen.**

Time with the children Larry Scott

Children's Song (MV145) *Draw the Circle Wide* verse one

Scripture John 3: 1-8 Len Jenks

This is Part of our Story **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem *Far Beyond* P. Lawton

The Tenebrae

The extinguishing 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 second candle that we extinguish is or the Lament of HOMOPHOBIA. It couldn't possibly be a more timely occasion to focus on this.

*Kristy Willow: When we reflect on this theme of homophobia 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. Today we may make some plans to serve PIE to others. Why PIE? And what's PIE? Public, Intentional, and Explicit: P-I-E, PIE.*

*These are the standards for real and radical welcome for LGBTQIA+ and Two-Spirit people in our communities and faith communities. In our tradition, we might say that PIE is prophetic news, gospel news, good news for all Christian communities to share: You are beloved of God and a celebrated part of this community of faith!*

*We hope everyone can feel affirmed, and welcome as we try to make our community of faith one which is fully inclusive.. We hope they can be treated equally and fairly by all. . We hope that personal histories of experiencing homophobic comments and attitudes may be shared bravely so others may learn of the pain this attitude inflicts... We hope and hope and hope for our friends, LGBTQIA and Two-Spirit people, that one day they can find true equality in our society. So for this second week of Lent, it is indeed our 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.*

All faiths, traditions, and backgrounds are invited. You don't need to be an LGBTQIA-affirming ministry to join in. Wherever we are on the affirming journey, all of our PIE stories are an important source of inspiration *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.*

Reflection

Hymn VU582      *There's a Spirit in the Air*      Wren/Wilson

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.

Prayers of the People

\*Hymn VU375      *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*      J.K. Manley

\*A Word of Blessing

Postlude      *Fugue in E minor*      Dupuis

### Services

9:00 a.m. Communion in the Chapel      11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

|                            |                   |         |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| Lead Minister              | Shelagh MacKinnon | Ext 233 |
| Director of Music Ministry | Kelly Charlton    | Ext 231 |
| Sunday School Leader       | Micia Kanstrup    | Ext 225 |
| Building Supervisor        | Bruce Davies      | Ext 232 |

### Church Office:

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spiritual growth and  
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**Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup> , 2020**  
**Second Sunday of Lent**  
**International Women's Day**  
**932 Balmoral Road**  
**Victoria, BC V8T 1A8**  
**[www.firstmetvictoria.com](http://www.firstmetvictoria.com)**

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