**Prayers of the People**

* Opening Prayers
* Candle Lighting
* Sung Lord’s Prayer **VU page 959**

**SENDING**

**Hymn: VU # 684 Make Me a Channel of your Peace**

**Blessing and Commissioning**

We have been set free by the Good News of the Gospel to bring light and healing and peace to our world.

May we go forth singing a new song

and shining the light of hope in our world.

And may the blessing of God

Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit

Be with us now and always.

**All: Amen.**

**Sung Blessing**:**VU # 424 May the God of Hope**

1. May the God of hope go with us every day,  
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

*Refrain:* Praying, let us work for peace;  
singing, share our joy with all;  
working for a world that’s new,  
faithful when we hear Christ’s call.

* *Joys and Celebrations*
* *Welcome and Announcements*

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**Claremont United Church**

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Church office: 905 649 1363

Minister: Rev. Lionel Ketola BA, M. Div.

Minister of Music: Gabrielle Untermann

**Sunday March 6, 2022, 11:00 am service**

**The First Sunday of Lent**

**GATHERING**

Words of Welcome

**Acknowledgement of the Land**

We begin our worship by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land where we are gathered for worship today. These lands remain home to a number of Indigenous nations and people. Their relationship with the land remains central to their lives.

Claremont United Church lies within the area covered by the Williams Treaties of 1923, between Canada, Ontario, and the Chippewas of Beausoleil, Georgina Island and Rama and the Mississaugas of Alderville, Curve Lake, Hiawatha and Scugog Island First Nations.

**God of hope, awaken us to new opportunities to walk in justice and reconciliation with the First People of this land. Amen.**

**Lenten Invitation**

Now is the time of returning

**Returning to God, the source of Love .**

Now is the time of turning away

**Turning away from the brokenness and injustice that wounds us and our world**

Now is the time of lifting

**Experiencing God’s love lifting the burden of guilt from our lives**

Now is the time of renewing

**Renewing heart and mind, body and soul**

Now is the time …

**With the whole church, we enter into the pilgrimage of Lent.**

May our faith be strengthened through our Lenten discipline:

**Through acts of self examination and repentance, study, prayer and fasting,**

**and acts of love and justice.**

May God bless us and keep us through these forty days of Lent and bring us safely to the joys of Easter!

**Amen.**

**Opening Hymn:VU # 229 God of the Sparrow**

**Prayer of Confession**

During the season of Lent, we remember how Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, was led into the wilderness where he was tempted for forty days in preparation for his ministry.

**At times, we have felt lost in the wilderness of our own lives and struggled with where to turn.**

Beauty and brokenness,

glory and fragmentation …

**Our lives and our world are steeped in these tensions**

Let us acknowledge before God both the beauty and the brokenness in our world and in our lives

*Silent confession*

**Kyrie** *Russian Orthodox Liturgy* **VU 946**

***Kyrie e-lei-son, Kyrie e-lei-son,***

***Kyrie e-le-i-son***

***Christe e-lei-son, Christe e-lei-son,***

***Christe e-le-i-son***

***Kyrie e-lei-son, Kyrie e-lei-son,***

***Kyrie e-le-i-son***

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

Beloved in Christ, God’s grace draws near to you.

God hears your deepest longings

for healing and wholeness.

In Jesus, God comes to you again and again

and gathers you under wings of love.

In Jesus’ name, your sins are forgiven.

God journeys with you

and teaches you how to live in love.

**All: Amen.**

**WORD**

Time for the child in all of us

**Song: MV 221 I am Walking the Path of Peace**

1. **I am walking a path of peace,**

**I am walking a path of peace,**

**I am walking a path of peace,**

**lead me home, lead me home.**

1. **I am walking a path of love …**
2. **I am walking a path of grace …**
3. **I am walking a path of hope …**

**Scripture Readings**

Whether you take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth or story, listen now to these words of scripture and for the meaning that they hold in your lives today.

**May God bless us with wisdom and wonder as we listen for the Spirit’s voice through these words of scripture.**

Deuteronomy 26: 1 – 11

**Scripture Hymn: On Eagles’ Wings VU pg. 808**

Holy Gospel: Luke 4:1–13

*After the reading:* Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

**All: Thanks be to God**

Sermon: Rev. Lionel Ketola

**Hymn: Jesus Tempted in the Desert VU 115**

Minute for Mission

Invitation to the Offering

Sung Offering Verse: VU 540

**Gant us, God, the grace of giving,**

**with a spirit large and free,**

**that ourselves and all our living**

**we may offer faithfully.**

Prayer of Dedication for the Gifts

**Loving God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us:**

**our selves, our time, our possessions - signs of your gracious love. May these gifts bring freedom to the oppressed and sustain all who struggle in the wilderness places of our world. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.**