



***Welcome to worship!***

**February 21st 2021**

**First Sunday in Lent**

***A joint online Zoom worship Service with  
Claremont, Fairbank & Goodwood United  
Churches & friends.***

***Worship Leaders: Pastor Steven Loweth, DLM & Rev. Lionel Ketola, M Div***

Onelicense # A-723979 CCLI # 11550809

**Musicians:** With thanks to the Masked Bandits of Claremont United Church

**[We Joyfully Gather in God's Presence](#)**

**Words of Welcome**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

There was a man named Jesus, who brought hope and healing to all he met.  
And he said **"I am the light of the World"**.

**Acknowledgement of the Land**

As we begin our worship, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land where each of us is gathered today. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all Indigenous peoples on Turtle Island.

**God of justice, help us to embody your call to reconciliation with our First Nations in tangible, loving ways. Amen.**

**Introit: God Be in My Head VU 430**

**Video**

**<https://youtu.be/zprx7PYOVSM>**

God be in my head, and in my understanding;  
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;  
God be at mine end, and at my departing.

## Call to Worship

*adapted from Psalm 46*

As the days grow longer  
and winter's chill gives way to sunny mornings,  
we gather today to be reminded of God's warming love for us.  
Like the bulbs which wait beneath the earth  
we welcome an awakening of God's promise in our lives.  
As we begin this season of Lent -  
a season of prayer and repentance, fasting and giving -  
we affirm our identity as God's beloved children  
and we reach out to our world with compassion.  
Thanks be to God!

## Opening Prayer

*Let us pray:*

**God of revelation,  
unveil your Kingdom in our midst.  
Show us who we truly are in you:  
expose the illusions that distort our vision,  
deliver us from temptations that contort our living,  
open our eyes in this time of trial –  
that resistance may be the secret of our joy  
and our joy a sign of your shalom. Amen.**

## Opening Song: Funga Alafia Ashe Ashe (We Come To Greet You, Ashe Ashe)

*West African Greeting Song in the Yoruba Language from Nigeria*

<https://youtu.be/PDjgSoMTKpU>

**Alafia:** A greeting, like hello with the meaning of “good health” or “peace” (like “shalom”).  
**Alafia** is a type of traditional welcome dance. **Funga:** A traditional welcome dance. **Ashe:**  
(Pronounced “ah-shay”) The Yoruba believe “ashe” is a basic force emanating from the Creator  
that unites all living and non-living things. Some translate it as “amen” (although that word  
has more western connotations).

***Funga Alafia,  
Ashe, Ashe (4x)***

***Our Hearts are Pure  
Our voices true  
With open arms  
We welcome you***

*Our hearts are full  
Our friendship true  
In peace and love  
We welcome you*

***Funga Alafia, Ashe, Ashe (4x)***

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (based on A Song of Faith) *Dr. Alydia Smith*

Today in our worship,  
we recognize people of African Descent and lament anti-Black racism and violence.

We pray that the Spirit will reorient us:

**challenging us to live by grace rather than entitlement;  
expecting us to be a blessing to the earth.**

We pray that by acknowledging our brokenness, we will be closer to becoming a church where  
the good news is lived out:

**faith nurtured and hearts comforted,  
gifts shared for the good of all,  
resistance to the forces that exploit and marginalize,  
fierce love in the face of violence,  
human dignity defended,  
members of a community held and inspired by God.**

Through our tears and silent confessions, may we witness to your love and grace.

*[time of silence]*

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE:**

Hear the Good News!  
God is our refuge and home.  
God is our strength and center.  
God is a very present help.  
God has always been and always will be,  
our very present help. Amen.

### **We Open our Hearts to the Spirit's Voice**

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

**All: May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder, as we ponder the meaning of these words in our lives.**

## **Jeremiah 1:4-10**

(Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible)

Now the word of God came to me and said:

“Before I formed you in the womb, I chose you.

Before you were born, I dedicated you.

I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” I said, “But Sovereign One!

I don’t know how to speak! I’m too young!” But God said,

“Do not say, ‘I am too young.’

Now, go wherever I send you.

And say whatever I command you.

Do not fear anyone, for I am with you to protect you.

It is God who speaks.” Then God touched my mouth and said to me,

“Look, I am putting my words in your mouth.

This day I appoint you over nations and territories,

to uproot and to tear down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Introduction to the video**

*Just as God called Jeremiah to be a Prophet to the nations, we will now hear the story of someone else who was also called to a special mission. This is the story of Ronald McNair.*

*Ronald grew up in Lake City, SC. He grew up to become an astronaut. Tragically, he was on the Challenger mission, which exploded seconds after takeoff on January 28, 1986. This is the story of how he started his journey, in a time of great racial strife, as told by his brother in this animated video.*

<https://youtu.be/0ILf6qakrTw>

**Song: MV 161 I have Called you By My Name, You are Mine**

<https://youtu.be/I0R35mVzftE>

## **1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

(Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible)

Even if I can speak in all the tongues of earth—and those of the angels too—but do not have love, I am just a noisy gong, a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy such that I can comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge, or if I have faith great enough to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own to feed those poorer than I, then hand over my body to be burned, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind. Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs, and it is not snobbish; it is never rude or self-seeking; it is not prone to anger, nor does it brood over injuries. Love doesn’t rejoice in what is wrong, but rejoices in the truth. There is no limit to love’s forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure. Love never fails. Prophecies will cease;

tongues will be silent; knowledge will pass away. Our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect. When the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. 11 When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child. But when I became an adult, I put childish ways aside. Now we see indistinctly, as in a mirror; then we will see face to face. My knowledge is imperfect now; then I will know even as I am known. There are, in the end, three things that last: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

**Reflection:** Rev. Dr. Paul Walfall First United Church, Fort Saskatchewan Alberta **Video**  
<https://youtu.be/fX3ZhfDRUSI>

**Hymn of the Day:** Let Us Break Bread Together on Our Knees VU 480

**Prayers of the People - I Dream a World, by Langston Hughes**

Loving God,  
I dream a world where  
no one will scorn,  
where love will bless the earth  
and peace its paths adorn.  
I dream a world where all  
will know sweet freedom's way,  
where greed no longer saps the soul  
nor avarice blights our day.  
A world I dream where black or white,  
whatever race you be,  
will share the bounties of the earth  
and every person is free,  
where wretchedness will hang its head  
and joy, like a pearl,  
attends the needs of all humankind -  
This is my dream, O God.

God in Your Love, **Hear our Prayer**

Let us know pray for all those on our hearts and minds on this day.  
*(Intercessions are now offered)*

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your great love;  
Through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

### **Offertory Prayer**

*Let us pray:*

**Loving God,**

**We offer to you what you have first given us –  
our selves, our time, our possessions – signs of your gracious love.  
Receive these gifts for the sake of the One  
who emptied himself for us – Jesus our brother. Amen.**

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

*by Rev. Tracy Howe Wispelwey and Alydia Smith*

#### **Invitation:**

This is Jesus' table, a fellowship that endures history and the trials of our past, present and future with an invitation that rings out through communities and creation, calling you to come as you are. Come because you are beloved and invited, whether you know it or not, feel it or not. Come and be fed; come and find healing; come and be renewed for the journey ahead. Come and know that God invites sinner and saint, oppressor and oppressed, colonizer and colonized, Indigenous and displaced, the corporate CEO and the migrant farmer, the bold and courageous and, the fearful and complacent, for we are one humanity, all children of our Creator, all in need of forgiveness and bread.

May God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to our God.

**Our hearts are filled with joyful praise.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

It is our joy to give you praise O God,  
for your beauty, goodness, and loving care.  
You created the world and called us into covenant with you.  
You teach us how to care for one another and creation.  
You speak truth through the prophets,  
showing mercy in spite of our violence, selfishness and systems of oppression.  
In Christ you show us your great love.

We give thanks for Jesus, born into our world, breathing our air, celebrating our humanity,  
building community with all people of all ages:  
the despised, the popular, the powerful and meek,

mourning our losses, dying at the hands of state sanctioned violence,  
faithful to everything God laid before him, and steadfast in Gods redeeming love for us.  
By his resurrection God showed us that death can be overcome by life and love.

When we share the bread, the pita, the tortilla, the bannock and the rice bread,  
together we remember that Jesus was strongest and most powerful  
in his weakest and most vulnerable moments.

On the night that Jesus was betrayed.....

Send now your mighty Spirit, O God,  
upon us and upon these gifts of bread and cup.  
Draw us into communion with Christ and with one another.  
Fashion us into the beloved community you are creating  
for the sake of the healing of our world. Amen.

Gathered into one at Jesus table, we pray together: **God our Heavenly Parent ... Amen.**

*At the Breaking of the Bread*

The gifts of God for the People of God,  
**Thanks be to God.**

Post Communion Prayer

**Christ, You have gathered us at your table,  
to bear witness to our unity in you.  
Fed and nourished, may we leave from here  
ready to be peace-keepers, God-bearers and kin-dom builders. Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: VU 333 Love Divine All Loves Excelling**

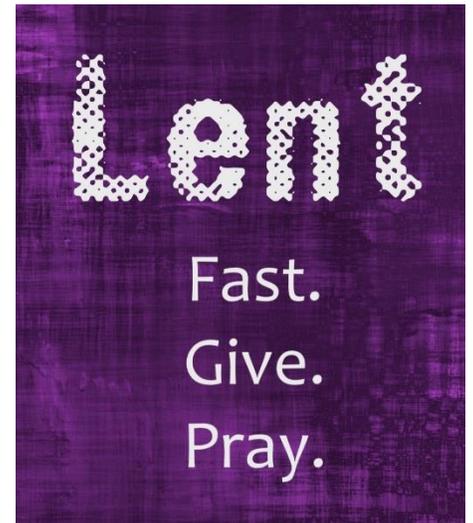
BENEDICTION

In Uganda there is a saying:  
One who experiences something good must share it.  
We who have received, felt, tasted and experienced  
the good news must share it.  
Go, then, into the world  
to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ,  
in your words, actions, and deeds.  
And may the blessing of God  
the love of Christ  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.



# Pledges for Plumpies

A Lent Fundraiser  
for UNICEF



## What are Plumpies?

Each donation of \$10.00 will provide a child suffering from malnutrition with enough Plumpy'Nut for one week. Plumpy'Nut is a "miracle food" – a paste made of peanuts, powdered milk, sugar and oil, with added vitamins and minerals. Three 500 calorie packs a day can restore a malnourished child to health in a few weeks. Plumpy'Nut requires no added water or refrigeration, can be eaten with fingers and is tolerated by malnourished bodies. All monies raised will go to UNICEF to purchase and distribute this edible miracle.



## How does this Fundraiser work?

Decorate a jar or basket for Lent to put your Pledges in. Each Sunday of Lent, write down what you have pledged to donate to Plumpies for that week and put it in your Lent jar / basket. **At Easter, add up your pledges and send your donation** to your congregation. All monies will be forwarded to UNICEF Canada's Plumpy'Nut program. You can:

- Send your donation to Claremont United Church by Interac e-transfer to: [treasurercuc@outlook.com](mailto:treasurercuc@outlook.com)

## Goodwood United Church – Weekly Programs & Meetings

**Online Community Check-in: Tuesdays at 10:00 AM, on Zoom.** Join us for an opportunity to connect and find supportive community through our regular weekly check-in meetings. At the conclusion of our check-in time, we move into our weekly “Conversations about Life / Not your Typical Bible Study” group. Feel free to join us!

**The Knit-Wits: Wednesdays at 10:00 am.** This is **Goodwood United Church’s weekly ZOOM group** for Knitting, crochet and other needle craft. This group facilitates our congregation’s **Prayer Shawl Ministry**. They will keep you in stitches! To find out how to connect with this group on Zoom, contact Shirley Baster.

**Book Study: Fridays at 10:00 am on Zoom – See Below for details of our Lent Study.**

**Affirming Committee Meeting:** Thursday February 18, at 2:00 pm, the Goodwood and Claremont United Churches Affirming Ministry Committee will meet on Zoom. Debbie Andersen will send out the Zoom link information.

**Annual General Meeting:** Thursday March 11, at 7:00 pm on ZOOM.

**\*\* Please get your AGM report to Dar Christie by Feb 15. Thanks!**

## CLAREMONT UNITED CHURCH – Weekly Programs and Meetings

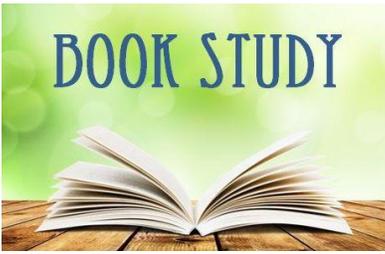
**Wednesdays @ 12:00 noon – Join us for a Zoom “drop-in” meeting. Resumes Wed January 6<sup>th</sup>.** Everyone is invited to join us for these “Virtual Brock Café” Zoom gatherings to connect with our congregational community. ! Thank you to Debbie Andersen who will host this coming week’s gathering, while Rev. Lionel is away on study leave.

**Book Study: Fridays at 10:00 am on Zoom (see below for details on our Lent Study)**

**Affirming Committee Meeting:** Thursday February 18, at 2:00 pm, the Goodwood and Claremont United Churches Affirming Ministry Committee will meet on Zoom. Debbie Andersen will send out the Zoom link information.

**Annual General Meeting:** Wed March 3, 7:30 pm.

**\*\* Please get your AGM Report to Rev. Lionel by Feb 15. Thanks!**

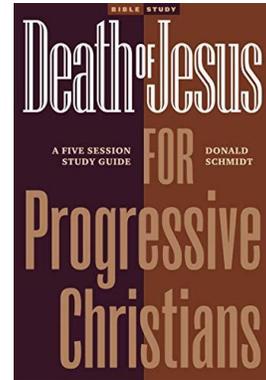


Join our joint **BOOK STUDY GROUP** for all 3 Churches & friends: **Friday Mornings at 10 AM on Zoom.**

### Join our Lent Book Study (5 weeks)

Beginning the first week in Lent (Friday Feb 19<sup>th</sup>) we will read:  
**The Death of Christ for Progressive Christians, by Donald Schmidt.**

You can order your copy through: [www.woodlakebooks.com](http://www.woodlakebooks.com)



### Join us on YOUTUBE

Join us for worship LIVE, Sunday Mornings at 10:30 am on YOUTUBE, or watch recordings of our Sunday service anytime during the week. See this Link (Fairbank United's YouTube channel):

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1HPD2ai10bo-qbNaXvNVtw>

### Continued Financial Support for our Congregations

Please prayerfully consider how you can continue to support your congregation's ongoing ministries during this time.

- Offerings can be **mailed to the church address** itself
- **PAR forms** (for pre-authorized debit) are available from your church treasurer
- You can send your offering by **E-TRANSFER** through your online banking.

**Here is where to send them:**

For **Claremont United** send to: [treasureruc@outlook.com](mailto:treasureruc@outlook.com)

For **Goodwood United** send to: [goodwooductreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:goodwooductreasurer@gmail.com)

*Thank you for your continued support of our congregation's ministry.*

