

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

Gracious God, Your word is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword.

Today, when we hear Your voice, deliver us from hardness of heart. Help us to put away everything that keeps us from persevering in Your way, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## BIBLE READINGS -

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (*Page 1145*)      Luke 15:1-2, 11b-32 (*Pages 1035-1036*)

Frank Knowles

## MUSICAL REFLECTION

SERMON:                    *"My Place - My Home"*                    Krikor Youmshajekian

HYMN:    233    *"I Will Sing the Wondrous Story"*

NOTICES - **Working Bee** - Wednesday 30 March from 12:30 pm.

- **Movie/Pizza Night** - Tuesday 5 April 6:30 pm.

The movie will be *Woman in Gold*.

OFFERING - *Give generously and with great joy, not for obligation!*

## DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING - PRAYER

HYMN:    210    *"O for A Thousand Tongues to Sing"*

## BENEDICTION

To Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy, to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore!



Remember Daylight Saving ends on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April,  
please make sure to change your clocks backwards.

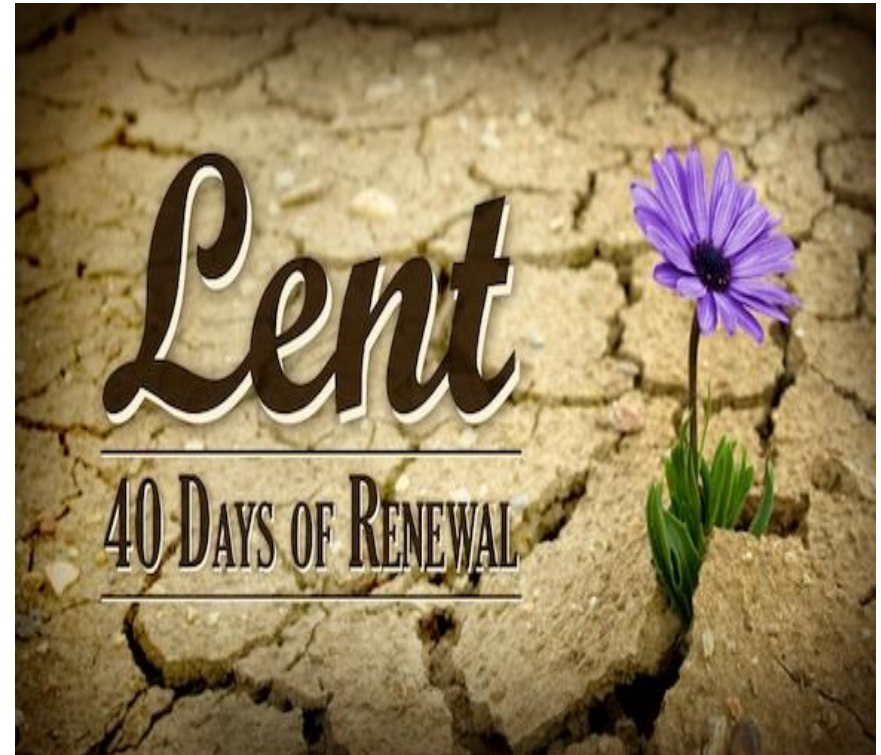
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## Longueville - St. Andrew's Uniting Church



## ORDER OF SERVICE

LENT 4

27 March 2022

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, His holy mountain.

It is beautiful in its loftiness, the joy of the whole earth. Like the utmost heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion, the city of the Great King.

God is in her citadels; He has shown himself to be her fortress!

*Within Your temple, O God, we meditate on Your unfailing love. Like Your name, O God, Your praise reaches to the ends of the earth; Your right hand is filled with righteousness.*

For this God is our God for ever and ever; He will be our guide even to the end.

*(Psalm 48:1-3, 9-10 &14)*

**HYMN: 216 “Rejoice, The Lord Is King”** (Tune 108)

## RESPONSIVE READING

Come, let us worship God, who has called us to be holy people, and has established an everlasting covenant through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*We come in spirit and in truth.*

Let us adore the God of love: who created us; who continually preserves and sustains us; who has loved us with an everlasting love and given us the light of the knowledge of His glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

*We praise You, O God, we acclaim you as Lord.*

Let us glory in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ: though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor; He was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin; He went about doing good and preaching the gospel of the kingdom; He became obedient to death, death on the cross; He was dead and is alive for evermore; He has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers; He is seated at God’s right hand in glory; He will come again to be our judge.

*You are the king of glory, O Christ.*

Let us rejoice in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life; whose witness confirms us; whose wisdom teaches us; whose power enables us. By the Spirit we are born into the family of God and made members of Christ’s body.

*All praise to You, O Holy Spirit.*

## PRAYER

Dear God, obeying Your command we have baptised this child, Lydia, in the name of the Holy Trinity. Now we ask You to bless her and keep her under Your strong arms of protection. Bless Stephen and Julia who have freely brought her into Your presence. Help them to fulfil their promise and raise her in Your way. We also pray for the church as they accept her into their midst. Help them to fulfil their promise in nurturing the child and providing the spiritual food she needs.

**HYMN -** (During the song the child is presented to congregation)

Congregation

## Jesus Loves Me, This I Know

Anna Bartlett Warner rewritten by David Rutherford McGuire

Mel. William Batchelder Bradbury

1. Jesus loves me! This I know,  
for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong;  
they are weak, but He is strong.

*Refrain:*

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!*

*Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

2. Jesus loves me! This I know,  
as He loved so long ago,  
taking children on His knee,  
saying: ‘Let them come to me.’

*Refrain*

3. Jesus loves me still today,  
walking with me on my way,  
wanting as a friend to give light  
and love to all who live.

*Refrain*

**READING -** “Your Children are Not Your Children” - Kahlil Gebran

and Matthew 18:1-6

**David Feather**

**CLOSING REMARKS -** (Certificate and a gift are presented)

## THE BAPTISM

What is the name of this child?

***Lydia Maxine Trovato.***

Lydia Maxine Trovato, I baptise you in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

Lydia, from this day on, the sign of the cross is upon you.

Lydia is now received into the holy catholic Church according to Christ's command.

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you;  
the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

*The people sit.*

## RESPONSES

Stephen and Julia,  
I ask you now to respond to God's graciousness to Lydia by making these solemn promises:

Will you provide for your child a Christian home of love and trust?

***With God's help, we will.***

Will you set before Lydia the example of a Christian life, and will you pray that she will learn the way of Christ?

***With God's help, we will.***

Will you encourage your child to grow within the fellowship of the church, so that she may come to faith in Christ?

***With God's help, we will.***

*Addressing to the people*

I charge you, the people of this congregation, to maintain the life of worship and service, that this child and all the children among you may grow in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the knowledge and the love of God.

***With God's help, we will live out our baptism as a loving community in Christ: nurturing one another in faith, upholding one another in prayer, and encouraging one another in service.***

**SONG:**            ***"In His Time"***

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In penitence and faith, and in a period of silence, let us confess our sins to Almighty God. Let us pray. (*Silence*)

We acknowledge before God the Lord the wretchedness of our world and the sins of our hearts and minds. Our times are full of evil and we are but children of our times. We have seen the light and we are still in darkness. We have seen the truth and we are half-hearted. We are disciples, but poor disciples, unable to give sight to our neighbour who is blind to where blessing lies. We confess all these things with shame and pray God forgive and redeem. ***Amen.***

## PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

***O Lord, who hast mercy upon all, take away from me my sins, and mercifully kindle in me the fire of your Holy Spirit.***

***Take away from me the heart of stone, and give me a heart of flesh, a heart to love and adore You, a heart to delight in You, to follow and to enjoy You, for Christ's sake. Amen.***

*Ambrose of Milan (339-33-97)*

**HYMN:**        **693        "Come as You Are"**

## PRAYER

Mighty God, in whom we know the power of redemption, You stand among us in the shadows of our time.

As we move through every sorrow and trial of this life, uphold us with knowledge of the final morning when, in the glorious presence of Your risen Son, we will share His resurrection, redeemed and restored to the fullness of life and forever freed to be Your people.

Creator of the universe, You made the world in beauty, and restore all things in glory through the victory of Jesus Christ.

We pray that, wherever Your image is still disfigured by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed, the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love, and peace, to the glory of Your name.

O God, Your Son remained with his disciples after his resurrection, teaching them to love all people as neighbours.

As His disciples in this age, we offer our prayers on behalf of the universe in which we are privileged to live and our neighbours with whom we share it.

*Prayers of the people (in silence)*

Open our hearts to Your power moving around us and between us and within us, until Your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and enemy, in communities transformed by justice and compassion, and in the healing of all that is broken. Amen.

*Prayers of the people (in silence)*

Guide us in the path of discipleship, so that as You have blessed us, we may be a blessing for others, bringing the promise of the kingdom near, by our words and deeds. Amen.

*Prayers of the people (in silence)*

***Receive these prayers, O God, and transform us through them, that we may have eyes to see and hearts to understand not only what You do on our behalf, but what You call us to do so that Your realm will come to fruition in glory.***

***We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We ask You, hear our prayers. Amen!***

## **LENT PRAYER**

Dear God, in this season of Lent, we're reminded of our own difficulties and struggles. Sometimes the way has seemed too dark. Sometimes we feel like our lives have been marked by such grief and pain, we don't see how our circumstances can ever change. But in the midst of our weakness, we ask that you would be strong on our behalf. Lord, rise up within us, let your Spirit shine out of every broken place we've walked through. Allow your power to be manifest through our own weakness, so that others will recognize it is You who is at work on our behalf. We ask that you trade the ashes of our lives for the beauty of your Presence. Trade our mourning and grief for the oil of joy and gladness from your Spirit. Trade our despair for hope and praise. We choose to give you thanks today and believe that this season of darkness will fade away. Thank you that you are with us in whatever we face and that you are greater than this trial. We know and recognize that you are Sovereign, we thank you for the victory that is ours because of Christ Jesus, and we are confident that you have good still in store for our future. We thank you that you are at work right now, trading our ashes for greater beauty. We praise you, for you make all things new. In Jesus' Name. ***Amen!***

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

## **THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

### **RENUNCIATION AND AFFIRMATION**

*To the parents of the child*

Stephen and Julia what do you ask of God's church for Lydia Maxine?

***We ask that she be baptised into the faith and family of Jesus Christ.***

In the light of the covenant promise and of your request, I ask you:

Do you believe that the gospel enables us to turn from the darkness of evil and to walk in the light of Christ?

***We do.***

*Address to the congregation (people stand).*

Let us confess the faith into which we are baptised.

Do you believe in God, who made you and loves you?

***I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.***

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, your Saviour and Lord?

***I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.***

***On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.***

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, and the continuing work of our salvation?

***I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.***

### **PRAYER**

Father, we thank you for accepting us into your Kingdom through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. We thank you for the gift of water and its significance in salvation history. We ask you to bless this water and the child to be baptised. Amen.

*The people remain standing.*