

Grey Street United Church
March 24, 2019

Take Up the Challenge – A Lenten Spiritual Practice
Third Sunday Of Lent
The challenge of Praying for your Enemy

* Stand as you are able. Words in **bold** spoken by all.

*GATHERING SONG: – “Kanata Sanctus”

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH:

*HYMN: - VU 651 “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

A JOURNEY WITH JESUS: – Lenten Candle Liturgy

(third purple candle is extinguished)

SUNG RESPONSE: - “The Glory of Our God”
(tune VU 162)

OPENING PRAYER and LORD’S PRAYER:
(sung to “Kum-Ba-Ya” v. 1-4)

ANTHEM: – “Hold to God's Unchanging Hand”

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART:
Praying for your Enemy

THIS WEEKS LENTEN CHALLENGE:

(chosen symbol comes forward)

This week’s challenge is to pray for an enemy. Every day, we would like you to spend some time praying for someone who has hurt or offended you. Or you might pray for someone with whom you are having a difficult relationship or you someone you just don’t see eye to eye with. Take some time every day to pray for that person, or simply send them love and compassion. So, that is your challenge for the coming week.

VIDEO: - “Praying”

SCRIPTURE READING:

Psalm 63:1-8 - *I long for you, O God*

Luke 13:1-9 - *The parable of the barren fig tree*

We give God thanks for these readings
of Holy Scripture ...

AMEN

MESSAGE: - *Renewal*

*HYMN: - VU 121 “Tree of Life and Awesome
Mystery”

OFFERING:

During this time, feel free to light a candle in prayer.

*OFFERING HYMN: "All Things Come From You"
(sung to the tune of Kum-ba-ya)

*OFFERATORY PRAYER:

PRAYER INTROIT: VU 865 “Hear Our Prayer, O Lord”

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERSESSION:

*HYMN: - VU 117 “Jesus Christ is Waiting”

SENDING FORTH:

*SUNG BENEDICTION: - VU 967 “Amen”

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the Peace of Christ Be with You...
and also with you.

POSTLUDE:

Psalm 63:1-8 *(Good News Translation)*

Longing for God

63 ¹ O God, you are my God, and I long for you. My whole being desires you; like a dry, worn-out, and waterless land, my soul is thirsty for you. ² Let me see you in the sanctuary; let me see how mighty and glorious you are. ³ Your constant love is better than life itself, and so I will praise you. ⁴ I will give you thanks as long as I live; I will raise my hands to you in prayer. ⁵ My soul will feast and be satisfied, and I will sing glad songs of praise to you. ⁶ As I lie in bed, I remember you; all night long I think of you, ⁷ because you have always been my help. In the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. ⁸ I cling to you, and your hand keeps me safe.

Luke 13:1-9 *(Good News Translation)*

13 ¹ At that time some people were there who told Jesus about the Galileans whom Pilate had killed while they were offering sacrifices to God. ² Jesus answered them, "Because those Galileans were killed in that way, do you think it proves that they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?" ³ No indeed! And I tell you that if you do not turn from your sins, you will all die as they did. ⁴ What about those eighteen people in Siloam who were killed when the tower fell on them? Do you suppose this proves that they were worse than all the other people living in Jerusalem?" ⁵ No indeed! And I tell you that if you do not turn from your sins, you will all die as they did."

The Parable of the Unfruitful Fig Tree

⁶ Then Jesus told them this parable: "There was once a man who had a fig tree growing in his vineyard. He went looking for figs on it but found none. ⁷ So he said to his gardener, 'Look, for three years I have been coming here looking for figs on this fig tree, and I haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it go on using up the soil?' ⁸ But the gardener answered, 'Leave it alone, sir, just one more year; I will dig around it and put in some fertilizer. ⁹ Then if the tree bears figs next year, so much the better; if not, then you can have it cut down.'"

Grey Street United Church

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