

**Grey Street United Church** April 5, 2019

Take up the Challenge – A Lenten Spiritual Practice  
Fifth Sunday Of Lent;

The challenge of Reach Out To Someone Who Is Lonely

**\*GATHERING SONG –**

**Life and Work of the Church**

**\*HYMN: vu408 Welcome To Another Day**

**A JOURNEY WITH JESUS – Lenten Candle Liturgy**

Reader 1: Lest we think that Lent is only a somber time, let us remember that it also is a rich and abundant time.

**Reader 2: Just as the desert is not a barren place but, in fact, a very fertile yet largely unknown place,**

Leader 1: Lent provides opportunities for us to see and experience incredible abundance and extravagance.

**Reader 2: Too often, we miss these moments because they appear alongside difficulties and sadness.**

*(fifth purple candle is extinguished)*

**Sung response: The Glory of Our God (tune vu162)**

**Opening Prayer** (Lord's Prayer sung: tune of Kum Ba Yah vs1-4)

Giver of Life, we arrive this morning seeking sanctuary.

Are you here, among us, among this wood and plaster and glass?

Are you here among the voices of friends and family and in all that have gone before?

Are you here in our singing, in our praying, in our silence?

(pause; breathe)

You are here, as you are everywhere, and we are here...

And so let us find you here as we breath in your presence....

(pause; breathe)

Let us settle our selves in this place.,  
but let us not become too settled.

May we be open to the movement of the Spirit.

May we hear the words you have for us today.

May we know the direction you are nudging us toward as we continue this Lenten path... L

We pray in Jesus' name singing... Amen.

**ANTHEM**

**Time With The Young And Young At Heart**

*Today is the Fifth Sunday of Lent. This year we are asking you to take up a challenge rather than give something up for Lent.*

*Last week you were asked to share your faith with someone. Does anyone wish to tell us how they shared their faith?*

*Sharing...*

*During the offering, the baskets will be passed around to gather your challenge.*

**Chosen symbol comes forward**

**This Weeks Lenten Challenge**

This week your challenge is to reach out to someone who is lonely. We would like you to make a point to visit someone who is lonely or alone. Try to reach out to someone you aren't usually in the habit of reaching out to.

You could go to visit a special care home, say hi and drop off some encouraging notes to residents there. Or just stop by to visit some you would not regularly visit.

**(sharing reach-out to someone who is lonely – video)**

**Scripture:**

**Philippians** *(all is loss, but knowing Christ)*

**John 12:1-8** *(Mary anoints Jesus)*

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

**MESSAGE –**

**\*HYMN: vu129 Said Judas to Mary**

**\*Offering Hymn:** *you are invited to light a candle in prayer if you choose*

**Offering hymn:** tune of Kum Ba Yah vs5

All things come from you, all are yours –  
kingdom, glory, power, all are yours;  
take our lives and gifts, all are yours –  
O Lord, hear our prayer.

**\*Offering prayer**

Gracious God,  
you are generous beyond understanding.  
You have given us everything good  
and we thank you.  
We ask that you accept our giving to you,  
with our money, our time,  
with our energy, our talents.  
We ask that you bless every situation  
where our gifts go to work  
in the generous spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer introit- vu 865 Hear Our Prayer Oh Lord

Hear our prayer, O God,  
hear our prayer, O God;  
incline your ear to us;  
and grant us your peace.

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERSESSION**

**\*HYMN: vu114 Forty Days**

**\*Sending Forth**

The heart of Christ will show the way.  
The love of God will bless each day.  
The Spirit's call will open lives.  
Our hope and joy will begin to rise.  
Let us go forth as new creations in Christ.

**\*Sung Benediction** vu967 A-men, a-men, a-men

**\*Passing the Peace of Christ**

May the Peace of Christ Be With You...  
**POST LUDE**

## **Philippians 3:4-14** Good News Translation

<sup>4</sup>I could, of course, put my trust in such things. If any of you think you can trust in external ceremonies, I have even more reason to feel that way. <sup>5</sup>I was circumcised when I was a week old. I am an Israelite by birth, of the tribe of Benjamin, a pure-blooded Hebrew. As far as keeping the Jewish Law is concerned, I was a Pharisee, <sup>6</sup>and I was so zealous that I persecuted the church. As far as a person can be righteous by obeying the commands of the Law, I was without fault. <sup>7</sup>But all those things that I might count as profit I now reckon as loss for Christ's sake. <sup>8</sup>Not only those things; I reckon everything as complete loss for the sake of what is so much more valuable, the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have thrown everything away; I consider it all as mere garbage, so that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be completely united with him. I no longer have a righteousness of my own, the kind that is gained by obeying the Law. I now have the righteousness that is given through faith in Christ, the righteousness that comes from God and is based on faith. <sup>10</sup>All I want is to know Christ and to experience the power of his resurrection, to share in his sufferings and become like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>in the hope that I myself will be raised from death to life.

### *Running toward the Goal*

<sup>12</sup>I do not claim that I have already succeeded or have already become perfect. I keep striving to win the prize for which Christ Jesus has already won me to himself. <sup>13</sup>Of course, my friends, I really do not<sup>a</sup> think that I have already won it; the one thing I do, however, is to forget what is behind me and do my best to reach

what is ahead. <sup>14</sup>So I run straight toward the goal in order to win the prize, which is God's call through Christ Jesus to the life above.

## **John 12:1-8** *Good News Translation*

### **Mary anoints Jesus**

**12** Six days before the Passover, Jesus went to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, the man he had raised from death. <sup>2</sup>They prepared a dinner for him there, which Martha helped serve; Lazarus was one of those who were sitting at the table with Jesus. <sup>3</sup>Then Mary took a whole pint of a very expensive perfume made of pure nard, poured it on Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The sweet smell of the perfume filled the whole house. <sup>4</sup>One of Jesus' disciples, Judas Iscariot—the one who was going to betray him—said, <sup>5</sup>“Why wasn't this perfume sold for three hundred silver coins<sup>a</sup> and the money given to the poor?” <sup>6</sup>He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief. He carried the money bag and would help himself from it.

<sup>7</sup>But Jesus said, “Leave her alone! Let her keep what she has for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup>You will always have poor people with you, but you will not always have me.”