

Balzac Pastoral Charge
of the United Church of Canada
Epiphany 3
Sunday January 21, 2024
Minister: Kelly Grittner, DLM

Prelude: *My Jesus, I Love Thee* arr. M. Hayes

Welcoming and Land Acknowledgement

"As we gather together, let us pause to remember that we live, work and worship on lands that are, by law, the unceded territories of the nations of Treaty 7. As Christ's people, may we be people of love, of truth, and of reconciliation. May we live with respect on this land, and in peace and friendship with its people."

Gathering as God's People

Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

If the world is sane, then Jesus is mad as a hatter...The world says, law and order, and Jesus says, Love. The world says, Get, and Jesus says, Give. In terms of the world's sanity, Jesus is crazy as a coot, and anybody who thinks we can follow him without being a little crazy too is labouring less under a cross than under a delusion.

Frederick Buechner, Listening to Your Life

Call to Worship

Jesus calls us to be the light of the world –

**To loose the bonds of injustice,
open the eyes that are blind,
and deliver from prison those who sit in darkness.**

God invites us to be a light to the nations –

To carry God's salvation to the ends of the earth.

The Holy Spirit dwells in us,
giving us strength to do God's work.

We live in God's foolish hope for us and for the world!

Childrens Chat

[Chorus]

Oh, deep in my heart

I do believe

We shall overcome some day

Prayer of Commitment

O Holy One, we come today

to claim our relationship with you.

**We pray for the commitment to grow together,
sharing the gifts you give us with others**

here and in the wider world.

**Forgive us for the hurt we have inflicted,
and help us forgive those who have hurt us.**

Give us strength and discipline

to nurture our relationship with you;

to care for every part of your creation;

to foster justice and be in solidarity with those in need;

to work to end all war, and violence, and discord;

and to respond joyfully when you call,

freely giving ourselves as you have shown the way.

We open our hearts to you and your creation. Amen

Scripture Readings:**Micah 6: 1-8 "What Does the Lord Require of Us?"****Mark 1: 14-20 "Jesus Calls Simon, Andrew, James and John"****Reflection "Please Pass the Bait"****Mission & Service, Stewardship with Michelle****Presentation of the Offering***He Leadeth Me**arr. M. Hayes***Dedication of the Offering****Holy One, your gifts to us are many: beauty and joy,
love and hope, freedom and mercy.****We receive them and know they are meant to be shared.****Accept what we offer this day as a sign of our gratitude and of our commitment to create a more just and caring world. Amen.****Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer****Our Father, who art in heaven.****hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,****thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.****Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation,****but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,****forever and ever. Amen****Commissioning & Blessing****Let us go out into the world****and take up the work of Jesus:****find the lost, heal the broken,****feed the hungry, release the prisoner,****rebuild the nations, bring peace among the people.****Make music in the heart.****No matter how crazy that seems.****May faith, hope, and love be with us in all the days to come.****Postlude:***And Can It Be**arr. M. Hayes***Announcements:**

- Getting to Know our Neighbours**

The United Churches of Balzac, Airdrie and Irricana are planning three joint worship services as part of a getting to know our neighbour program. This involves each church hosting a joint worship service over the next three months.

On February 11, 2024 Balzac and Airdrie United Church congregations will be travelling to Irricana United Church to join them for worship at 10:00 am.

On March 10, 2024 Balzac and Irricana United Churches will be travelling to Airdrie United Church to join them for worship at 10:30 am.

And on April 14, 2024 Irricana and Airdrie United congregations will be travelling to Balzac United Church for worship at 10:00 am.

Our neighbouring churches will have activities planned for our Sunday School children. Both churches have invited our choir members to join their choirs. A service bulletin will be available in advance for each of the services.

If you bring your Balzac offering envelopes to Irricana or Airdrie they will be sorted after service and brought back to Balzac United. Cash offerings will be designated for a local service program connected to the home congregation.

Please direct any questions to Kelly during the announcement time.

- **Tags:** If anyone is missing or does not have a BUC nametag, please let Zoe Walkes know via email to balzacunitedchurch@gmail.com.
- **For any general information** on the Church please see the BUC Website Linked here: <https://balzacunitedchurch.com/>
- **Minister Kelly's phone number if needed: # 403 219 3535**
- **Zoom** - Joining each Sunday service via Zoom is available every Sunday, every weekly email will have a link to follow that allows you to join the service. If you have trouble getting into the Zoom meetings or accessing the link information, please contact Zoe Walkes or Ruth Unser for further help.
- **Airdrie Food Bank** – Within the Weekly Email and available upon request, there is a PDF that outlines most needed items from the Airdrie Food Bank. Please refer to this document for inspiration on donations.
- **AGM for Balzac United Church** - This years AGM will be held on March 3rd 2024 after church service and will be accompanied by a potluck lunch. Please feel free to participate. The AGM report will be sent out before the meeting for reference in our weekly emails starting February 11th 2024. Please keep your eye on these weekly emails for that information to come, and please let Zoe Walkes know if you would like a paper copy of this.



First Third Ministry Corner
Everything for our kids, youth & young adults

The email address for all Sunday school, youth and young adult programming for Balzac United Church is BUCfirstthirdministry@gmail.com. Please send all Sunday school and youth group correspondence to me through this new address. I am also available to chat on my cell number (587)229-3878.

Our programs can't run without the tremendous efforts of volunteers. We are currently in need of volunteers to help with the following:

nursery volunteers, either for one Sunday or on a rotational basis. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are able to help support this vital ministry

- January 28, February 25, and March 24: Victoria will be leading her group in mission & service, while Angela and her group will be leading our youngest kids in some special Sunday school classes designed just for them!
- Thursday, February 1: Youth Group
- March 3: Mission and Service Fair Day! (*More details to follow with a possible prep day on March 2.)