

**Balzac Pastoral Charge
of the United Church of Canada
Sunday February 25, 2024 Lent 2
Minister: Kelly Grittner, DLM**

Prelude:

Blessed Assurance

-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

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the light of the world

We light this candle as a sign that God, through Jesus, is always with us.

Opening Reading & Response

"Walking Rainbows" "Kneeling in Jerusalem" Ann Weems

Choral Assurance Hymn

I Am the Dream (remain seated)

MV 106

Call to Worship

Come, all that have
entered into this space
from different places of birth,
different cultures,
and from places of divergent
perspectives and opinions.
**Come, let us find our home
in the spacious
and accepting heart of God
and see within it
our soul's longing and future.**

Prayer for Transformation

In a world that is closed in,
 where we focus on only our own,
 seeing our own needs
**May we be a community that is open,
 looking outwards, seeing beyond ourselves.
 May this be a holy transformation**
In a world where the few hold so much power,
 where food and opportunity is so unfairly divided
**May we be a community that shares,
 recognizing each other's needs,
 and sharing each problem together.
 May this be a holy transformation**

In a world where conflict is the chosen way,
and might feeds every prejudice
May we be a community that lives in peace,
where differences are celebrated,
and variety brings wholeness.
May this be a holy transformation.

Children and youth are welcome to go to Sunday School at this time

Hymn

Though Ancient Walls

VU 691

Scripture Readings

Genesis 12:1-4a "God Calls Abram to be a Blessing"

Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17 "God's Promises Rest on Grace Through Faith"

Reflection "Discernment – Sorting & Sifting"

Special Music - ***Ron Beagle***

Offertory *Open My Eyes* -arr. F. Milholland

Presentation of the Offering

Dedication of the Offering

Receive these gifts, O God
with our gratitude and praise
and may their use truly express
our desire to be a people
of good heart and free spirit. 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

Hymn

Morning Has Broken

VU 409

Commissioning & Blessing

May our loving God companion you,
May our sheltering God keep you safe.
May our joyful God fill your heart.
May our powerful God give you strength.
Amen.

Postlude

Wonderful Grace of Jesus

- arr. F. Milholland

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **AGM for BUC** – The AGM will be held on March 3, 2024, with a potluck lunch to follow. The AGM report is attached for your reference.
if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ruth Unser at runser@shaw.ca or 403-289-2715 or any of the other board members. The board would appreciate your attendance, participation and feedback as we work together to build our future. Paper copies will be available at the church next week if you need a printout. Let Zoe know so we can ensure that there are enough copies available.
- **Getting to Know our Neighbours Continues:**
Here is the schedule for the upcoming worship service sharing after our visit to Irricana last week.
March 10, 2024 at 10:30 am - Balzac and Irricana United Churches will be travelling to Airdrie United Church to join them for worship. No Zoom service this week.
April 14, 2024 at 10:00 am - Irricana and Airdrie United congregations will be travelling to Balzac United Church for worship.
Activities have been 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.
- **Income Tax Receipts** – Income tax receipts for 2023 donations will be passed out at church on Sunday. Any not passed out will be mailed on Feb 26, 2024. If you have any questions or concerns about your income tax receipt, please contact Ruth Unser at runser@shaw.ca or call at 403-289-2715 who is acting Envelope Secretary in the absence of Michelle Kotelko.
- **BUC Information:** For BUC activities and information, check out our website at <https://balzacunitedchurch.com/>
- **Minister Contact Information:** If you want to talk to Kelly Grittner, call him at 403-219-3535.



First Third Ministry Corner Everything for our kids, youth & young adults Led by Angela Wigglesworth

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 Angela through this new address. She is also available to chat on her 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 nursery, 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. For more information regarding Angela and Victoria's specific group times please contact Angela Wigglesworth.

- February 25th and March 24th: Miss Angela will be leading groups in M&S activities and preparation – Our youngest kids get activities just for them! Miss Victoria is back after this week!
- Mission & Service Fair Is planned for the 21st of April 2024