

**Balzac Pastoral Charge
of the United Church of Canada
Lent 1
Sunday February 18, 2024
Minister: Kelly Grittner, DLM**

Prelude: *What Wondrous Love is This* - arr. L. Shackley

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

Opening Reading & Response

"The Walk" *"Kneeling in Jerusalem"* Ann Weems

"I Want Jesus to Walk With Me"

[Traditional African American spiritual.]

I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord walk with me;
in my trials, Lord walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
When I'm in trouble, Lord walk with me;
When I'm in trouble, Lord walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow, ,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
When I'm singin' Lord, walk with me,
When I'm singin' Lord, walk with me,
When I'm praisin' all of God's goodness,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Call to Worship

A wilderness

A Journey

A Temptation

A wilderness

A turning

A calling

A wilderness
An encounter
A renewing
A wilderness
A taking up
A folding away

A wilderness
A movement
A season

A wilderness
A vision
A preparing

Come and meet God, who calls us beyond where we
are now, to where love will find itself to be.
Welcome to Lent.

Hymn

I Have Called You by Your Name

MV 161

Prayer of Confession

While we keep silence
those who need bread are left hungry
We confess the times
we have not spoken up for the hungry
and our silence has left hunger as our witness

While we keep silence
those who need peace shout into the distance

We confess the times we have silently
gone along with the world
rather than pursuing your demands for justice
and our silence has left distrust as our witness

While we keep silence,
those who need comfort
receive no comforting word.
We confess the times we
have been tempted to stand back
rather than crossing the gulf
to enter into relationship with one another
and our silence has left despair as our witness

Fill our mouths with words of peace,
our hearts with longing for justice,
and our lives with acts of love,
that we may be tempted to trust you,
and live for you each day. Amen

Hymn

Though I May Speak

VU 372

Scripture Reading

Mark 1: 9-15 “The baptism, temptation and mission of Jesus”

Reflection “Trusting God in Lent”

Hymn

I, the Lord of Sea & Sky

VU 509

Mission & Service

Offertory & Presentation of the Offering

He Leadeth Me - arr. L. Shackley

Dedication of the Offering

Loving Creator, take these gifts, as you have taken us,
transforming them and blessing them
to make a difference in the 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

Hymn

One More Step Along the World I Go

VU 639

Commissioning & Blessing

Like the flowers of the field, we are richly blessed.

So let us go forth filled with thanksgiving, to love and care for others and for the world God made.
And may the peace of Christ be with us all.

Postlude:

All Creatures of Our God and King

- arr. L. Shackley

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Purdys Chocolate** – There is a wonderful chocolate fundraiser happening in support of the BUC! Purdys easter chocolates will be for sale on paper or online with a special link available. This link is available within the weekly email or upon request. This fundraiser is ongoing until March 12, 2024. Victoria Walkes is the person to head to if there are any questions in person or via email: kvw10@telus.net.

- **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 this 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.
- **In Mission and Service** - This week is Mission & Service Sunday! Don't forget to bring non-perishable food items for the Airdrie Food Bank. There is also the opportunity to donate to the Mission & Service efforts being carried out by the United Church of Canada. You can make a worldwide impact by donating through Mission and Service (select this option on your offering envelope), help a special project by giving a meaningful gift through our gift catalogue, or support emergency and disaster relief—and so much more. However you choose to give and whatever amount you are able to give, your generosity will help transform lives! Thank you!
- **come Tax Receipts** will be passed out at church on Feb 18 and 25. The remainder will be mailed out after that.
- **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

- February 25th - March 24th: Miss Victoria and Miss Angela will be leading their groups in M&S activities and preparation.
- Mission & Service Fair Is planned for the 21st of April 2024