

**Balzac Pastoral Charge  
of the United Church of Canada  
Sunday March 17, 2024 Lent 5  
Minister: Kelly Grittner, DLM**

**Music Ministry: Lee Dowan and Dr. Alex Shawn**

**Prelude:**

*The Love of God*

*- 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**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Fields of Athenry (Chorus) - Kelly**

*Low, lie, the fields of Athenry*

*Where once we watched the small free birds fly*

*Our love was on the wing*

*We had dreams and songs to sing*

*It's so lonely round the fields of Athenry.*

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

May the light from this candle remind us of the many times when the forces of darkness overcame the forces of light because too many people stood idly by as hatred reigned.

**May this candle be a call to stand up for the poor, the marginalized, the threatened. All are human beings, each is unique, each person is a miracle of creation.**

**Opening Reading Living Stones" (Kate McIlhagga)**

**Choral Introit**

*I am the Dream*

*MV 106*

**Call To Worship**

When our faith is lifted high

and we move firmly in your love,

**you will be our God and we will be your people.**

When the pilgrimage is long

and all our paths seem to lead to pain,

**you will be our God and we will be your people.**

When the way ahead is clear

and we are surrounded by faithful community

**you will be our God and we will be your people.**

When the young diminish in number

and the old grow feeble in mind and spirit

**you will be our God and we will be your people.**

Gather us, know us, teach us, lead us,

write your name on our hearts so always...

**you will be our God and we will be your people.**

**Opening Prayer**

**Welcoming God,**

**May our welcome to others**

**be as great as yours has been to us:**

**to those who are hungry, may we offer bread;**

**to those who are broken, may we offer healing;**

**to those who are lost, may we offer nourishment;**

**to those who are doubting, a new adventure.**

Trusting in your redeeming love O God,  
we humbly pray that this place be a place of grace  
where what is offered is served to others.  
Amen.

Hymn *Spirit Open My Heart* MV 79

**SCRIPTURE READING & REFLECTION**

John 12: 20-33 "Winter Wheat"

Hymn *For the Fruit of All Creation* VU 227

Minute for Mission – Michelle K

Presentation of the Offering & Offertory: *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* -  
*arr. M. Hayes*

**Dedication of the Offering**

All that we presently are, all that we yearn to be  
we offer this day, O God.

Receive these gifts 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 *We Shall Go Out With Hope of Resurrection* VU 586

**BLESSING**

We continue our journey, seeking truth and wisdom for the days ahead, knowing that we are guided by God every step  
of the way.

Let us continue our search for truth, understanding , and wisdom as we journey in faith, for we follow Jesus who is the  
way, the truth and the life for us.

Amen.

Postlude: *Sunshine & Joy Medley* - arr. M. Hayes

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- **A congregational meeting** will be held after worship on Sunday March 17, 2024 to provide an update on the need to appoint ministry personnel for July 1, 2024 given the appointment for Kelly Grittner expires on June 30, 2024. The meeting may also include the consideration of any resolutions required to ensure the vacancy is filled on a timely basis. - Ruth Unser, Board Chair.
- **Upcoming Dates for Easter Season** – Keep the date within your calendar! There will be a **March 24<sup>th</sup>** – Palm Sunday Service with Music Cantata by our Choir directed by Dr. Alex Shawn and Lee

Dowan. **March 29<sup>th</sup>** – Good Friday Service with special music from the choir. **March 31<sup>st</sup>** – Easter Sunday Service and special music by the choir. Hope to see you all in body or spirit!

- **Confirmation** – On March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024, there will be a Confirmation Celebration for Hannah Walkes. Furthermore if there is anyone who would like to affirm or transfer their membership to BUC formally, March 31<sup>st</sup> is an invitation to anyone who would like this for themselves to happen. Please contact Minister Kelly Grittner 403-219-3535 for further information and interest.
- **Getting to Know our Neighbours Continues:**  
Here is the schedule for the upcoming worship service sharing after our visit to Irricana and Airdrie recently.  
**April 14, 2024 at 10:00 am** - Irricana and Airdrie United congregations will be travelling to Balzac United Church for worship.
- **Income Tax Receipts** – Income tax receipts for 2023 donations have been mailed out. If you have any questions or concerns about your income tax receipt, please contact Ruth Unser at [runser@shaw.ca](mailto:runser@shaw.ca) or call at 403-289-2715. Ruth is acting Envelope Secretary in the absence of Michelle Kotelko.
- **New Development Info:** In the discussion at the AGM I mentioned that I would send out the link for the map of the new development in Airdrie, Goldwyn Prairie Estates. Here is the link if people were interested in looking at it: <https://liveingoldwyn.com/lot-map/> . - Ruth Unser
- **E-Transfer Email** - For all E-Transfers sent to BUC Please use this email address: [treasurer@balzacunitedchurch.com](mailto:treasurer@balzacunitedchurch.com). Thank you!
- **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.

**Important dates for your Calendar:**

**March 17<sup>th</sup>** – Congregational Meeting


**March 24<sup>th</sup>** – Palm Sunday and Pickup Purdy chocolates

**March 29<sup>th</sup>** – Good Friday Service

**March 31<sup>st</sup>** – Easter Sunday Service and Confirmation Sunday.

**April 14<sup>th</sup>** - BUC service with Airdrie and Irricana at 10:00m am

**April 21<sup>st</sup>** - Mission and Service fair

  
**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](mailto: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.

- March 24<sup>th</sup>: Miss Angela and Miss Victoria will be leading groups in M&S activities and preparation – Our youngest kids get activities just for them!

- Mission & Service Fair Is planned for the 21<sup>st</sup> of April 2024