

## **United Churches of Langley**

### ***The Season of Lent***

### ***God Is Good!***

**March 22, 2020, 10:30 am – Live-Streamed**

## **We Gather in the Spirit of Worship**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Acknowledgment of First Nations Territories**

**Birthdays and Celebrations**

**Gathering Song**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Singing the Bowl**

**Prayer for Transformation**

**Loving God, as we distance ourselves from others to keep our world safe,  
we need you closer.**

**Keep our prayers flowing and our hearts connected.**

**Let us rest in you as you infuse our lives with hope.**

**We believe; help our unbelief! Amen**

**Extinguishing the Light**

Even in the light of the Christ Candle,

we know that the journey through Lent will have its shadowy places.

We extinguish this candle yearning for confidence in our day to day living.

God's goodness and generosity is a gift freely given to us.

Yet we have doubts, even when we see light all around us.

On our journey to Jerusalem,

we watch for symbols that point to the certainty of God's care.

**We celebrate Spirit, found in the assurance of God's love:**

**where emails connect our hearts,**

**in the spring sunshine,**

**an inspiring book,**

**a phone call from a friend,**

**an animal's devotion,**

**the air we breathe.**

The season of Lent began with dust and ashes.

The journey through Lent will draw us deeper

into the heart and compassion of God.

In community we travel, in unity we gather as Easter people.

**God is Good! All the Time!**

**All the Time! God is Good!**

**Ministry of Music**

## **We Open to Wisdom**

**Singing the Bowl**

**Scripture Reading**                      John 9:1-41 *Paraphrased*

**Sermon**                                      *What Am I Looking at?*

**Music**

**Singing the Bowl**

**Meaning and Mission**

**Prayers of the People**

**Lord's Prayer** (*Adapted by Ashley Walker ~ at age 16*)

**Our God, who is all around us,  
your name is music to our ears.**

**Your Kingdom is one of justice,  
mercy and compassion  
and we carry out your orders  
in our life as we understand them.**

**Today give us bread for our journey.**

**Please forgive us when we wrong others.**

**Help us to forgive those who wrong us.**

**May we resist temptation  
and not be caught up in evil ways.**

**Your Kingdom, your power and your glory  
are mirrored in the best  
that we have to offer  
and reflected in all that we can be.**

**May we be faithful to that Kingdom.**

**Amen.**

**Singing the Bowl**

## **We Depart - Blessed to be a Blessing**

**Sending Out**

**Postlude**

### **John 9:1-41 ... A *paraphrase***

As Jesus and his disciples walked along, they saw a man who had been blind all his life. The disciples asked, "Rabbi, why was this man born blind, did he sin, or did his parents?" Jesus answered, "It was not because of anyone's sin, God's works of love will shine brightly in this person, as a sign to teach us. As long as it is day, we must do what the One who sent me asks of us. While I am in the world, I am light for the world."

After Jesus said this, he spat on the ground and made mud and spread the mud on the person's eyes saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which

means One who is Sent). The person went, washed off the mud and he could see.

The man's neighbours and other people who had seen him begging wondered if he really could be the same man and they argued about this. He told them, "I am that person!" "Then how can you see?" they asked. He answered. "Someone named Jesus made some mud and smeared it on my eyes. He then told me to go and wash it off in Siloam Pool. When I did this, I could see.

The day that Jesus made the mud and healed the person was the Sabbath. So some of the people took the person to the Pharisees. They asked the man, formally blind, how he was able to see, and he answered, "Jesus made some mud and smeared it on my eyes. Then after I washed it off, I could see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man Jesus doesn't come from God. If he did, he would not break the law of the Sabbath." Others asked, "How could someone who is a sinner work such a sign?" The person formerly blind exclaimed, "I don't know who is a sinner. All I know is that I used to be blind, but now I can see!"

*Adapted from 'The Children's Daily Devotional Bible', Robert J. Morgan, General Editor*

### **Prayer during a Pandemic** *by Cameron Bellm*

May we who are merely inconvenienced  
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors  
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home  
Remember those who must choose between preserving their health  
or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children  
when their schools close  
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips  
Remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money  
in the tumult of the economic market  
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home  
Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,  
Let us choose love.

During this time when we can not physically wrap our arms  
around each other,  
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours.  
Amen.