



Laidlaw Memorial United Church

Celebrating our 114th Year—1912-2026

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Our Mission: With respect, cooperation, and joy, through acts of love that build each other up, we seek to share the light of Christ as a Beacon from our corner in East Hamilton

Worship at Laidlaw

Ash Wednesday Communion

Worship with us In Person, or by Livestream on YouTube, search "Laidlaw Live"

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Livestream Starts at 6:55 p.m.

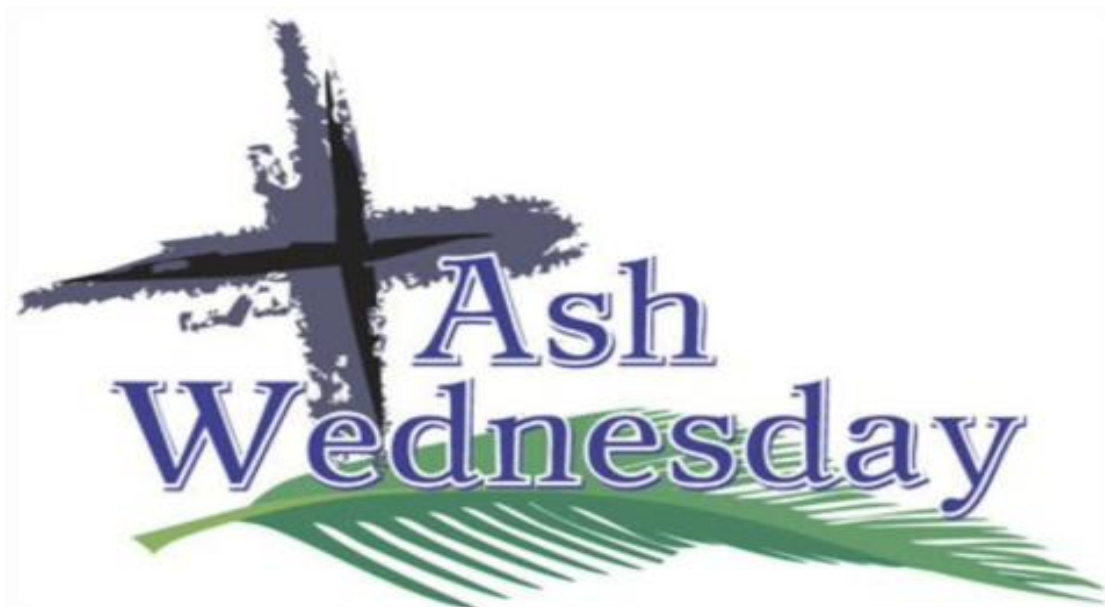
Livestream URL: <https://youtube.com/live/0ACwVQPxHRc>

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Worship in Person, or Live from Laidlaw on YouTube!

Please Log in to Chat; or send a text to 905-547-2021—Request a prayer, send your greetings, light a candle!



Don't Forget to 'Like Us' on YouTube! 'Subscribe' and get notified of upcoming livestreams!
If you are online or in Person, please consider making an offering in one of two ways:
send an Interac e-transfer to 'laidlawuc@bellnet.ca' or press the 'On-Line Donation' button
at www.laidlawchurch.ca Thank you for your support!

Ministers: All who follow Jesus Christ!

At the Keyboards: Olivia Brown

Musician: Steve McRae, B. Mus, A.R.C.T., Dipl. A.A.

Minister: Rev. Douglas C. Moore, B.Th., B.A. (Phil), M.Div.

Welcome and Announcements

God Gathers Us Together

Chimes, Candles, and Font Call

Call to Worship

The Lord be with you. And, also, with you.


The fire burns, the waters cleanse, Christ is present with us. The truth will set us free—we have nothing to fear.

The call to confession is grace that leads to peace. In truth, love, and mercy, God is revealed to us!

God redeems our lives; God sets us free in hope and joy!

Call to Repentance

Tune: REST (Elton) 86886


 Psalm 51:1-17

1. Have mercy on me, O my God, according to your grace! According to your steadfast love, in mercy blot out all my sins; wash me and make me clean!
2. For I know my transgressions, God, I cannot hide my sin. Against you, only, I have sinned; your sentence is now justified; your blameless judgment stands!
3. Indeed a sinner I was born, a sinner when conceived, but you desire the deepest truth; please teach me wisdom that runs deep within my secret heart.
4. Purge me with hyssop, make me clean, wash me as white as snow! Let joy and gladness fill my ears! Let bones once crushed rejoice again! Don't look upon my sins!
5. God, now create in me a heart that's clean, a spirit true; don't cast me from your presence, God, nor take your spirit from me LORD. Restore the joy that saves!
6. Sustain in me a willing heart and I will teach your ways. Sinners will turn to you again; deliver me from bloodshed God, and of your help I'll sing!
7. My praises are my sacrifice, the off'ring you desire. You will not spurn a broken heart; a smitten spirit you will hear, Have mercy, O my God!

Adapted from the Scripture and set in metre by Rev. Doug Moore

We Hear God's Word

Meditation on the Hebrew Scripture

 Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 (Old Testament, page 846)

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

Useful Repentance

First Prayer of Confession (unison)

God, it seems that nothing really changes. We see hatred, bigotry, and greed, where we'd hoped for change; things always seem corrupt and violent. We fall into despair and cynicism. We won't let ourselves believe that things can change; that people can change. We avoid conversations we need to have. We wallow in guilt and blame.

Yet, no matter how discouraged we become, you call us back to love, joy, and peace; you show us mercy! Grant us courage, so that we may return to hope, even on the darkest days. Give us wisdom, so that we might give up doing the same things the same old way; and try something we've never tried before. Keep us from mocking our heritage and losing sight of ancient wonders and graces. Let our lives be enriched as we embrace your creation that has not yet unfolded all its generations, offering our lives to unborn generations.

In silence, help us turn our hearts to your steadfast love.

Forgive us for all that keeps us from seeing ourselves as your redeemed creation, meant to do good and find peace.

Help us to embrace all you have created; and find what is good and green in everything you have created—even in ourselves—until we embrace the truth—that that we too, are your creation, meant to bless and bring joy.


God, call us to be your Church here at Laidlaw, to live and work together with respect, cooperation, and joy, giving witness to the light of Christ in our generation, making provision for the generations to come. As we walk this earth together, teach us to bless, and give us hearts filled with your joy, Amen.

Hymn

Touch the Earth Lightly

1. Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently, nourish the life of the world in our care: gift of great wonder, ours to surrender, trust for the children tomorrow will bear.
2. We who endanger, who create hunger, agents of death for all creatures that live, we who would foster clouds of disaster, God of our planet, forestall and forgive!
3. Let there be greening, birth from the burning, water that blesses and air that is sweet, health in God's garden, hope in God's children, regeneration that peace will complete.
4. God of all living, God of all loving, God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun, teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us, using us gently and making us one.

Meditation on the Epistle

 *Second Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 (New Testament, page 181)*
This is the witness of the Church. Thanks be to God!

Reconciled

Second Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

From lack of reverence for truth and beauty; from a calculating or sentimental mind; from going along with mean and ugly things; Holy One, deliver us.
From cowardice that dares not face truth; laziness content with half-truth; or arrogance that purports to know it all; Holy One, deliver us.
From artificial life and worship, from all that is hollow or insincere; from trite ideals and cheap pleasures; from mistaking vulgarity for humour; Holy One, deliver us.
From being pompous, or rude; from cynicism about others; from intolerance or cruel indifference; Holy One, deliver us.
From being satisfied with things as they are, in the Church or in the world; from failing to share the pain and sorrow of injustice not addressed; from selfishness, indulgence, or self-pity; Holy One, deliver us.
From token concern for others, rich or poor, from disdain for lonely or loveless people; from confusing faith with feeling justified, or love with wanting to be loved; Holy One, deliver us.
For everything in us that may hide your light, giving us permission to neglect the help you would give us; Holy One, let this be the acceptable time for you to forgive us, set us free, and heal our hearts and minds, Amen.


Epistle Hymn

641

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song as I Journey

1. Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey, I'll tell everybody about you wherever I go:
for our life and our peace and our love is yourself. Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.
2. Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey. May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song. Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.
3. As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears,
for you saved me by giving your body and blood. As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.
4. I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey, but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side;
and with all of my brothers you saved by your love, we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.

Meditation on the Gospel

 *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (New Testament, page 5)*
The Gospel of Christ. Praise to you, O Christ!

Seeing the Unseen

Third Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Creator God; have mercy on us—come near us! Invisible God; have mercy on us—come into our hearts!
Loving God; have mercy on us—live in our hearts! Forgiving God—show us how to turn and find grace!
This water proclaims your grace and provision. This oil proclaims the joy and gladness of forgiveness and healing.
Sharing this bread and wine reminds us of all your gifts that strengthen and redeem us.
Creator God, you formed us out of dust and ashes—and have breathed into us your breath of life.
Call us again, and give us grace to hear, that your invisible, spiritual presence may provide all that we need,
lifting our hearts and minds into the boundless truth and life and spirit, from which we can find strength
to be of service, and find eternal joy in life, in death, and in life beyond death, through Christ our Saviour, Amen.

Gospel Hymn

105

Dust and Ashes Touch our Face

1. Dust and ashes touch our face, mark our failure and our falling.
Holy Spirit, come, walk with us tomorrow, take us as disciples, washed and wakened by your calling.
Take us by the hand and lead us, lead us through the desert sands, bring us living water, Holy Spirit, come.
2. Dust and ashes soil our hands - reed of market, pride of nation.
Holy Spirit, come, walk with us tomorrow, as we pray and struggle through the meshes of oppression.
Take us by the hand and lead us, lead us through the desert sands, bring us living water, Holy Spirit, come.
3. Dust and ashes choke our tongue in the wasteland of depression.
Holy Spirit, come, walk with us tomorrow, through all gloom and grieving to the paths of resurrection.
Take us by the hand and lead us, lead us through the desert sands, bring us living water, Holy Spirit, come.

We Celebrate the Gifts of God for the People of God

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

We are not here tonight to prove we're good and proper Christians. We gather as followers of Christ, for a common meal, and in sharing this meal together, we remember Jesus, who offered us his flesh and blood that we may return to God and find grace, healing, and peace. It is right for us to gather and give thanks for this meal, and our gathering, ritual and grace that strengthens us to fast, and pray, and give our lives for the good of others, hopefully, faithfully, and with heartfelt love.

Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Communion Hymn

459

Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face (vs. 1-3)

1. **Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face; here would I touch and handle things unseen,
here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace, and all my weariness upon you lean.**
2. **Here would I feed upon the bread of God, here drink with you the royal wine of heaven;
here would I lay aside each earthly load, here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.**
3. **This is the hour of banquet and of song; this is the heavenly table for me spread;
here let me feast, and feasting, still prolong the fellowship of living wine and bread.**

Greeting

The Lord be with you! And also, with you!

Lift up your hearts! We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God! It is right to give God thanks and praise!

Words of Institution for the Bread and Wine

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Bread and Wine

God, our Creator, we give thanks for this bread and wine. Help us to see in this bread and wine your provision for our souls in the broken body and shed blood of Christ. Show us forgiveness, healing, grace and redemption prevailing for all your creation. יהוה שמע Save us, we pray!

We have gathered in confession, but not in despair or shame. We seek communion with you and each other. We seek hope, forgiveness, and healing, for ourselves, for each other, and for all creation.

Open our minds to the movement of your Spirit, so that your love and grace may strengthen our hearts. Give us grace to let go of all that destroys, so that we may cling to everything good in all you have created. Μαράνα θά! Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

All glory and honour belong to you! In communion with you and each other, with oil and water, we remember that you are redeeming us, and giving us joy to celebrate and share. You are our joy and treasure, worthy of praise, now and always, Amen.

Those at Home, please find some bread and wine!

If you are comfortable to do so, you are welcome to come to the baptism font,

To receive communion, and the oil of healing

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

Invitation to Christian Life and Generosity

Instrumental Offertory

Doxology

544

**In gratitude and humble trust, we bring our best today to serve your cause and share your love
with all along life's way. O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.**

Prayer of Dedication

In Jesus' Name We Go to Serve

Closing Hymn

459

Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face (vs. 4-5)

4. **Too soon we rise; the symbols disappear. The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;
the bread and wine remove, but you are here, nearer than ever, still my shield and sun.**
5. **Feast after feast thus comes and passes by, yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy, the Lamb's great bridal feast of bliss and love.**

Commissioning, Benediction

Go now in peace, go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you,
Everywhere, everywhere you may go.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

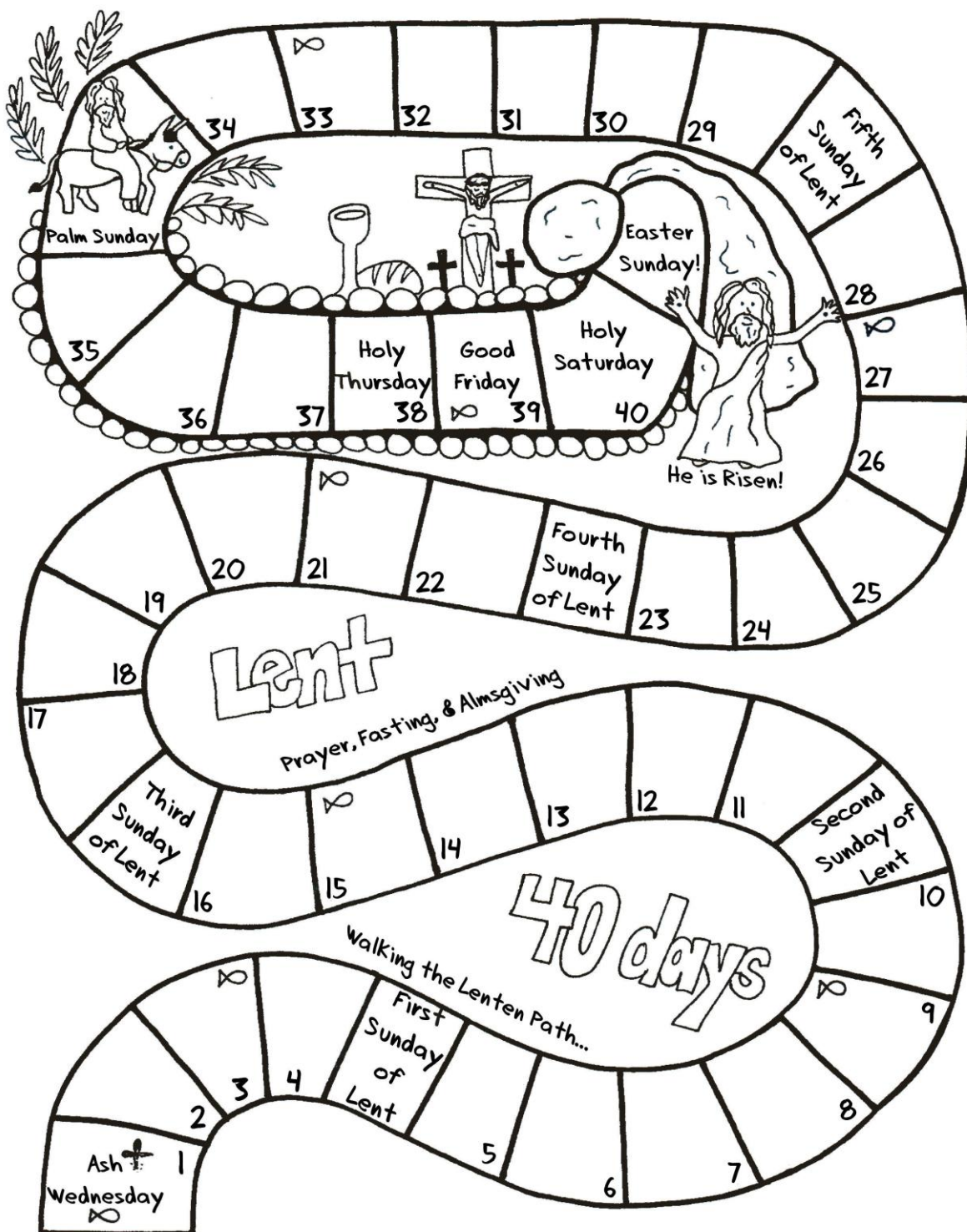
The Peace of Christ be with you! And also with you!

Postlude

Thank you for gathering with us tonight, at Laidlaw, and Online!

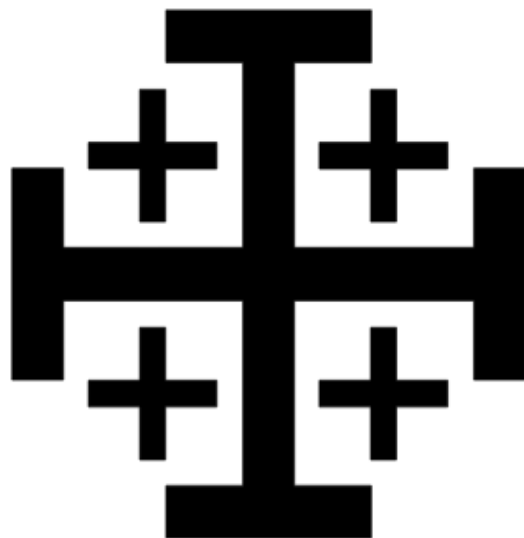
Worship is 11 a.m. each Sunday, in person and online!

You are always welcome to join us!



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Holy Thursday
 Ash Wednesday
 Washing Feet
 Crucifixion
 Last Supper
 Good Friday
 Palm Sunday
 forgiveness
 almsgiving
 forty days
 Rejection
 Disciples
 Jerusalem
 Holy Week
 Betrayal
 Example
 penance
 fasting
 Arrest
 Denial
 Garden
 desert
 prayer
 Cross
 Peter
 Ashes
 Jesus