

Carlisle/Kilbride United Church

March 15, 2026

Lent 4

Kilbride 9:30 am, Carlisle 11:00 am

Minister: **Rev. M. Gayle MacDonald**

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*Those who wish to do so are invited to stand for the Hymns and the Sending Forth/Benediction. Likewise, those who wish to do so are invited to respond aloud where indicated by **bold print**.*

Welcome



Acknowledgement of Land

As we worship God, we acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of

(Kilbride: the Huron-Wendat, Petun, Seneca, Neutral, Anishinaabe, and most recently the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation),

(Carlisle: the Neutral, Haudenosaunee, Anishinabek, and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation),

who continue to cry out for justice. As treaty people, we commit to listen, learn, and work to right the wrongs of the past and present.

The Life and Work of the Church

Lighting of the Lent Candles

Gathering Song: VU 121 – Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (Lent verses: General & 4th Sunday)

Marty Haugen's haunting 1984 hymn gets its unique sound from being written not in a typical major or minor key, but rather in the Dorian mode. It is performed by Catherine Weber (voice) and Carol Churchill (piano) for Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church in Washington.

[ELW 334 "Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery" Virtual Hymn Lutheran Hymn - Samm Hills Worship](#)

- G. Light of life beyond conceiving,
mighty Spirit of our Lord;
give new strength to our believing,

give us faith to live your word,
give us faith to live your word.

4th Give us eyes to see you clearly,
make us children of your light;
give us hearts to live more nearly
as your gospel shining bright,
as your gospel shining bright.

Invitation to Worship:

It's Sunday morning.

Last week, with all its demands, is over. The coming week, with yet another round of challenges and demands, is not quite here.

I invite you to close your eyes and be in the moment.

No matter where you are in your thoughts and feelings –

relieved about what you have accomplished,

anxious about what's left undone, concerned about people or projects –

no matter where you are in your journey this day, set all that aside and consider where you are right now. Whatever is true for you right now, in this moment, whether it be joy or sadness, gratitude or anxiety, let it come forward.

When it is fully present, then listen . . . for God is present in these moments, too.

God meets you where you are and calls you forward,

moment by moment, guiding you slowly but surely toward transformation.

(Silent time to listen.)

Open our eyes that we may see, our ears that we may hear, our mouths to speak your truth. Amen.

Hymn: VU 374 – Come and Find the Quiet Centre

Words: Shirley Erena Murray 1989, alt.; Music: Attrib. Benjamin Franklin White 1844

A pianist, vocalist, and flautist give a sensitive performance of Shirley Erena Murray's "Come and Find the Quiet Centre" for St John's on the Lake United Methodist Church in Miami Beach, Florida.

[Come and Find the Quiet Center FWS #2128](#)

1 Come and find the quiet centre
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.

2 Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.

3 In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!

Lent Lament:

Sung Lament: TLUS 89 – Our Tears, Falling Down Like Rain

Paul M. Vasile's hymn is arranged and performed by Lonnie Delisle, a Vancouver composer, arranger, choral director, and musician. The Greek phrase "kyrie eleison," meaning "Lord, have mercy," is the common title of a significant liturgical prayer that often opens Catholic and Lutheran Mass settings and litanies.

[Our Tears, Falling Down Like Rain | by Paul M. Vasile, arranged by Lonnie Delisle](#)

Our tears, falling down like rain to the ground
will water seeds of change.
Kyrie, kyrie, kyrie, kyrie,
kyrie eleison.

(Silence for personal laments or to lament situations in life or the world)

Extinguishing Candles

Sung Response: TLUS 89 – Our Tears, Falling Down Like Rain

[Our Tears, Falling Down Like Rain | by Paul M. Vasile, arranged by Lonnie Delisle](#)

Our tears, falling down like rain to the ground
will water seeds of change.
Let it be, let it be, let it be,
let it be, O let it be.

Prayer for Illumination:

May we open our ears to hear as we listen to stories of God working among the people and Jesus speaking and acting in the world. As we listen and reflect may our hearts be open to understanding and our lives be enriched by the Spirit working among us.

Amen.

Readings from Our Christian Tradition

Gospel: John 9:1-41

The man born blind

9:1 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth.

9:2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

9:3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him.

9:4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work.

9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

9:6 When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes,

9:7 saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

9:8 The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?"

9:9 Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the he."

9:10 But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"

9:11 He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."

9:12 They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

9:13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.

9:14 Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.

9:15 Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see."

9:16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided.

9:17 So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

9:18 The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight

9:19 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

9:20 His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, 9:21 but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself."

9:22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.

9:23 Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

9:24 So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner."

9:25 He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

9:26 They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

9:27 He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"

9:28 Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. 9:29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."

9:30 The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.

9:31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.

9:32 Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.

9:33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

9:34 They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

9:35 Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

9:36 He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."

9:37 Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."

9:38 He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.

9:39 Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind."

9:40 Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?"

9:41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

Reflection

Prayer:

May we never be blind to God's justice and God's love. God, give us eyes to see as you see, ears to hear what you hear, and hearts to care and understand. Amen.

Hymn: VU 371 – Open My Eyes, That I May See

Words & Music: Clara H. Scott 1895

Rhonda Michelle accompanies her mother Sherry in a heartfelt performance of Clara H. Scott's late 19th-century hymn. Scott graduated from the first Chicago Musical Institute before gaining employment at a girl's seminary and later becoming a composer, hymnist, and publisher. She was the first woman to publish a volume of sacred anthems, the *Royal Anthem Book* (1882), and she published two additional collections of her songs.

[OPEN MY EYES THAT I MIGHT SEE - YouTube](#)

- 1 Open my eyes, that I may see
 glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
 place in my hands the wonderful key
 that shall unclasp and set me free.
 *Silently now I wait for thee,
 ready, my God, thy will to see.
 Open my eyes, illumine me,
 Spirit divine!*

- 2 Open my ears, that I may hear
 voices of truth thou sendest clear;
 and while the wave-notes fall on my ear,
 everything false will disappear.
 *Silently now I wait for thee,
 ready, my God, thy will to see.
 Open my ears, illumine me,
 Spirit divine!*

- 3 Open my mouth, and let me bear
 gladly the warm truth everywhere;
 open my heart and let me prepare
 love with thy children thus to share.
 *Silently now I wait for thee,
 ready, my God, thy will to see.
 Open my heart, illumine me,
 Spirit divine!*

Offertory Prayer:

Bless the gifts we offer – our time, our talent, our earthly treasure, our willing spirits, our compassionate hearts, our prayers for the good of the world. May these gifts, in

their giving, become hope and healing, love and transformation. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Offertory: VU 218 – We Praise You, O God (v. 1)

Words: Julia Cory 1902 alt; Music: Netherlands melody 1626; harm. Eduard Kremser 1877; desc. Scott Withrow 1980

Accompanied by organist Ryan Jackson, the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church Virtual Choir performs Julia Cory's 1902 hymn, including a wonderful third-verse descant.

[Hymn – We Praise You, O God](#)

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

Prayers of the People:

Sing into Prayer: VU 400 – Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Carroll Gotcher is a Tennessee music educator, brass musician, band leader/conductor, transcriptionist/arranger, and music adjudicator. He is a frequent performer on trombone, euphonium, baritone horn, and bagpipes.

[Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying](#)

*Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!*

Creator God, your people gather in spirit,
and, by your spirit, we are connected to you and to one another.
Listen to our troubled minds as we pour out our fear of what we cannot know.
Listen to our hearts as we feel the sting of isolation.

Lord, listen to your children praying.

Listen to our whole being as we adjust to a new way
of acting in this world at this time.

Show us your presence:

in the rising and setting of the sun,
in the changing of seasons,

in the sabbath that has been created for the earth,

as a sabbath from our usual round of activity is imposed upon us.

Show us your presence

in those who reach out to bring words of comfort to one another,

who reach out to look after the needs of one another.

Lord, listen to your children praying.

Give us patience for the days and weeks ahead;
help us to find places of joy and moments of peace.
May the gifts of common sense, good humour, and compassion
 accompany us through these days.
Remind us again that we are not alone, never alone,
 for You are with us. Thanks be.

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: VU 313 – God, Whose Almighty Word

Words: John Marriott ca. 1813, alt.; Music: Adapted from Felice de Giardini 1769

The choristers and lay clerks of the Cathedral Choirs of St Albans Cathedral in Hertfordshire give a virtual performance of this hymn for a Sunday Eucharist service. The text was written by John Marriott, a Church of England clergyman. The tune, variously called ITALIAN HYMN and MOSCOW (where the composer died), was composed by Felice de Giardini, an Italian musician and virtuoso violinist who gained much success and popularity in London, where he lived and worked for forty years.
[St Albans Cathedral | Thou Whose Almighty Word](#)

- 1 God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight,
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.

- 2 Jesus, who came to bring
on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight,
health to the troubled mind,
sight to the Spirit-blind,
O now to humankind
let there be light.

- 3 Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy dove,
speed forth your flight;
move on the water's face,

bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.

- 4 Blessed and holy three,
glorious trinity,
wisdom, love, might,
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the world far and wide,
let there be light.

Commissioning & Benediction

Sung Sending Forth: VU 108 – Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights (vv. 1 & 4)

In this lyric video Crystal Schau sings James Gertmenian's 1993 Lenten hymn, accompanied by Lynne Mavins on organ. Schau and Mavins are part of the Music Ministry team of Transcona Memorial United Church in Winnipeg.

[Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights](#)

- 1 Throughout these Lenten days and nights
we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
we live in hope till Easter Day.
- 4 And though the road is hard and steep,
the Spirit ever calls us on
through Calvary's dying, dark and deep,
until we see the coming Dawn.

Online Postlude: Good Life Livin'

I couldn't help but share another video of this mother-daughter duo, Rhonda Michelle and Sherry. Rhonda Michelle is a country singer-songwriter and musician in Tennessee committed to giving back to her community by singing at fundraisers, charities, nursing homes, senior centres, local parks, and churches. She writes, "I enjoy writing songs about God's Awesome Grace and Mercy. Out of all there is to sing about in this world, that is my most favorite. I love to share through music the Awesome and Amazing Grace God so lovingly lavishes upon us." It is wonderful to witness Rhonda Michelle and Sherry's close bond and experience their love of faith-based music.

[GOOD LIFE LIVIN'](#)