

Carlisle/Kilbride United Church  
March 1, 2026  
Lent 2  
Kilbride 9:30 am, Carlisle 11:00 am



Photo Credit: Darla MacLean Audfroid

*I will lift my eyes unto the hills – Psalm 121*

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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 & 1<sup>st</sup> 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 - Sammamish 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.

1<sup>st</sup> From the dawning of creation,  
you have loved us as your own;  
stay with us through all temptation,  
make us turn to you alone,  
make us turn to you alone.

## **Call to Worship/Psalm 121:** VU 844

### **Opening Prayer:**

You, God of the hopeful and the hopeless, fill our hearts and feed our hopes as we gather on this day. Make us mindful of your presence as we gather and as we wonder what yet may be. May our worship enrich our understanding and bring us peace. Amen.

### **Lent Lament:**

Sung Lament: TLUS 89 – Our Tears Falling Down

**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

[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:**

As our ears absorb the words we hear, we ask this question: what is it, O God, you wish us to understand about the far-off world of our traditional writings? Speak to our hearts as we read, listen, and reflect. Amen.

## **Readings from Our Christian Tradition**

**Hebrew Scripture:** Romans 4:1-5 (The Message)

4<sup>1-3</sup> So how do we fit what we know of Abraham, our first father in the faith, into this new way of looking at things? If Abraham, by what he *did* for God, got God to approve him, he could certainly have taken credit for it. But the story we're given is a God-story, not an Abraham-story. What we read in Scripture is, "Abraham entered into what God was doing for him, and *that* was the turning point. He trusted God to set him right instead of trying to be right on his own."

4<sup>5</sup> If you're a hard worker and do a good job, you deserve your pay; we don't call your wages a gift. But if you see that the job is too big for you, that it's something only *God* can do, and you trust him to do it—you could never do it for yourself no matter how hard and long you worked—well, that trusting-him-to-do-it is what gets you set right with God, *by* God. Sheer gift.

**Gospel:** John 3:1-17

3:1 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.

3:2 He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person."

3:3 Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

3:4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"

3:5 Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

3:6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

3:7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.'

3:8 The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

3:9 Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"

3:10 Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

3:11 "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony.

3:12 If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?"

3:13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

3:14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

3:15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

3:17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

## **Reflection**

[Kilbride] **Hymn:** VU 288 – Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*Words: Thomas O. Chisholm 1923, alt.; Music: William M. Runuan 1923, desc. Joachim Segger 1995*

Pianist/composer Dan Musselman and fingerstyle guitarist Titus Major collaborated on the 2025 instrumental album *Praise*, on which "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" appears. As Greg Scheer writes, this hymn "is inspired by the simple realization that God is at work in our lives on a daily basis. . . . The hymn reminds us that God doesn't only work in dramatic or miraculous ways, but also in simple, everyday ways" (hymnary.org).

[Great Is Thy Faithfulness | Piano and Fingerstyle Guitar Version](#)

- 1 Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.  
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided –  
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!
- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. R
- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow –  
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide. R

## **Offertory Prayer**

**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.

**[Kilbride] Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer**

**[Carlisle] Communion Hymn:** VU 480 – Let Us Break Bread Together

*Words & Music: African-American Spiritual 19<sup>th</sup> Century*

This performance features the beautifully clear and warm baritone of Charles Wesley Evans alongside three other Tenet Vocal Artists: Artistic Director and soprano Jolle Greenleaf, soprano Molly Quinn, and alto Virginia Warnken. Tenet is a New York City-based early music ensemble in its 17<sup>th</sup> season. Well worth a listen!

["Let Us Break Bread" | Tenet Vocal Artists](#)

- 1 Let us break bread together on our knees,  
let us break bread together on our knees.  
When I fall down on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.
- 2 Let us drink wine together on our knees,  
let us drink wine together on our knees. R
- 3 Let us praise God together on our knees,  
Let us praise God together on our knees. R

**[Carlisle] Communion** (see insert)

**Hymn:** VU 633 – Bless Now, O God, the Journey

*Words: Sylvia Dunstan 1989; Music: Basil Harwood 1898*

Angela Gibbon sings Sylvia Dunstan's 1989 lyrics to the late 19<sup>th</sup>-century tune THORNBURY. Dunstan (1955-1993) served the United Church of Canada as a parish minister, prison chaplain, and hymnist, writing hymns that include "Go to the World" and "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly."

[Bless Now, O God, The Journey Thornbury](#)

- 1 Bless now, O God, the journey  
that all your people make,  
the path through noise and silence,  
the way of give and take.  
The trail is found in desert  
and winds the mountain round,  
then leads beside still waters,  
the road where faith is found.
- 2 Bless sojourners and pilgrims

who share this winding way,  
whose hope burns through the terrors,  
whose love sustains the day.  
We yearn for holy freedom  
while often we are bound.  
Together we are seeking  
the road where faith is found.

- 3 Divine Eternal Lover,  
you meet us on the road.  
We wait for lands of promise  
where milk and honey flow.  
But waiting not for places,  
you meet us all around.  
Our covenant is written  
on roads, as faith is found.

### **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:** Kyrie from Mass in B Minor by J.S. Bach

This setting of the "kyrie eleison" text was composed by German Baroque powerhouse Johann Sebastian Bach. While the second section (Christe) features a soprano duet, the first and final sections (Kyrie I and Kyrie II) are choral fugues, where a musical theme is introduced in one vocal part and then repeated polyphonically in various permutations. Try listening for when different vocal parts enter the texture. Tenet

Vocal Artists and orchestra performed the work live in 2024 at St Jean Baptiste Church in New York City.

Mass in B Minor (Kyrie) | Johann Sebastian Bach | Tenet Vocal Artists