



The United Church of Canada
Prairie Spirit Pastoral Charge
Coaldale United and St. Andrew's UC
Trinity and First United
Worship leader Rev Ruth Preston Schilk
Reader: Donna Wright
Music: Barb Goertzen

February 22, 2026

Lent 1

Announcements:

Land Acknowledgement:

Introit: Spirit Come – refrain 2X

Spirit come (Spirit come)
Spirit come (Spirit come)
Open our eyes
Open our hearts
Come, Spirit, come

Call To Worship:

Opening Prayer:

Lenten Tenebrae:

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. 2 He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. 3 The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." 4 But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

7 Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, 9 and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

11 Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Six candles are lit, as well as the Christ candle.

One: We suffer when we do not know who we are.

All: We are constantly tempted by the seduction of power, the glamour of wealth, and ego-gratifying attention.

One: We are drawn into these temptations because we forget who we are and whose we are.

All: When we forget that we are created in God's image,

One: we lose our connection to our soul and to our God.

All: Like fish out of water, we lose our connection to that which gives us life.

One: We then live with consequences, which are hard to bear, for ourselves, for our society, and for our world.

The first candle is extinguished.

All sing: (MV 90)

"Don't be afraid"

Don't be afraid

My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear

Don't be afraid,

My love is stronger, and I have promised,

Promised to be always near.

One: Let us pray.

All: O God, we really do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from you. Feed us with your wisdom and your truth. Quench our deepest thirst to find the peace that you offer to us. In this journey of Lent, travel with us as we seek to find our true self, the self you have created us to be. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Time for the Young and Young at Heart:

Prayer for Reconciliation:

For the ways we have abandoned you
and put *ourselves* in the wilderness,
forgive us, O Lord.

For the ways we have marginalised others
and driven *them* into the wilderness,
forgive us, O Lord.

For our complaint when, in refining us,
you have led us into the wilderness,
forgive us, O Lord.

Thank you, O Lord, for being with us in *every* wilderness. Amen.

[Adapted from *Words for Worship 2*, ed. Diane Zaerr Brennehan, © 2009 by Herald Press, Waterloo, ON]

Words of Assurance: Psalm 32:1-7,11

Hymn: VU 112 (Verses 1 & 3)

O God, How We Have Wandered

O God, how we have wandered
and hidden from your face;
in foolishness have squandered
your legacy of grace.

But how, in exile dwelling,
we turn with fear and shame,
as distant but compelling,
you call us each by name.

O God of all the living,
both banished and restored,
compassionate, forgiving,
our peace and hope assured.
Grant now that our transgressing,
our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing,
in pardon, and in peace.

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, 5 for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

May God bless our understanding of these scriptures.

Message:

Hymn: VU 121

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

**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.**

**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.**

Minute for Mission: Support That Grows with Families

Becoming a parent or guardian is a life-changing, complex experience that doesn't have a one-size-fits-all answer. As kids, we looked to adults for guidance as we navigated the world with fresh eyes. Now, as adults, we recognize that we're still figuring things out as we go, and there's always an opportunity to grow our skills and minds.

In London, Ontario, Mission and Service partners with the London Community Chaplaincy as they respond to parents and guardians who want to build a network of support, share the parenting journey, and develop new skills as they navigate raising children in a low-income setting. Together, these parents are working hard to build a positive future for their children and families.

Each week, London Community Chaplaincy provides a welcoming and safe social setting for adults to connect and grow as parents. Not only do they learn how to guide a child through critical stages of development, but also how to navigate being a parent or guardian while managing financial stress, food insecurity, housing complications, and more. Gathering with other adults in a similar situation allows participants to share their struggles and triumphs, further building a sense of community.

Your gifts to Mission and Service support partnerships like the London Community Chaplaincy as they help empower parents along the parenting journey. Thank you.

Mission Prayer:

God is creative and self-giving, generously moving in all the near and distant corners of the universe. Nothing exists that does not find its source in God. Our first response to God's providence is gratitude. We sing thanksgiving. Amen

Offertory: Doxology MV 18

Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy tried and true;
with thanksgiving,
I'll be a living sanctuary for you.**

Offering Prayer:

Prayers of our Hearts:

Lord's Prayer (sung): music by Pat Mayberry

*Creator God, 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: VU 279

You, God, Are My Firmament

Commissioning and Benediction:

Sung Blessing VU 298

When You Walk from Here with 3-Fold Amen

When you walk from here,
when you walk from here,
walk with justice, walk with mercy,
and with God's humble care. (x2)

Amen, Amen, Amen.