



Thornbury, Ontario  
**Grace United Church**  
Bold. Nurturing. Liberal. Christian.

**March 22, 2020**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent, Joy Sunday in Lent**

Leading us today in Worship

**Minister:**

**Rev. Thérèse Samuel**

**Music Director:**

**Dr. Christopher Burton**

**Lay Leader**

**Phyllis Fleming**

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*We Gather...*

**PRELUDE** *Moment Musical*

~ F. Schubert

**GREETING**

2 Cor 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**WELCOME** *If you are visiting, welcome.*

*Please let us know what you think of the service by emailing*

[rev.tess@graceunitedthornbury.ca](mailto:rev.tess@graceunitedthornbury.ca)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, let us worship.

**OPENING PRAYER**

(AWA)

Visionary creator, give us your vision.

**Show us our hearts, our homes, our communities,  
and our world through your eyes.**

Wash away our blind spots,

and help us to see where we do not see.

**Allow us to see creation as you see it now,  
and as you envision it to become.**

Help us realize your vision,  
and walk the road of life—  
the way and path of Jesus. **Amen.**

\* **HYMN** The King of Love (VU 273)

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

(AWA)

Divine God, our Guide, give us the clarity  
to wake to our short-sightedness and stay woke.  
Give us the courage to wake to our shortcomings  
and stay woke.

Give us the compassion to wake to our hurtful acts  
and stay woke.

Hear our silent prayer  
as we sit in awareness of our need.

*(pause in silent prayer)*

Help us wake to this awareness and stay woke.

As we receive your grace,  
we wake to your whispers and direction,  
yearning to stay woke. Amen.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE** Eph 5:15 NRSV

(AWA)

“Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead  
and Christ will shine on you.”

**“Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead  
and Christ will shine on you.”**

*We Listen for God's Word to Us...*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

As we prepare to listen for what the Bible is saying to us,  
let us pray:

**Help us, O God,**

(RW)

**to come with open lives to receive your words  
that we may give them new life  
as we listen to what you have to say.**

Open our hearts

so that we may feel your love surrounding us  
as you teach us to journey in your way. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE:**

Read this week's scriptures at:

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu//texts.php?id=27>

**Psalms 23** *God is my shepherd.*

**John 9:1-41** *Jesus heals the man born blind*

**Additional Scriptures (included in service themes, not read today):**

**1 Samuel 16:1-13** *Samuel chooses one of Jesse's sons as king.*

**Ephesians 5:8-14** *Live as children of the light*

**RESPONSE:**

(AWA)

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** "Faith Growers"

\* **HYMN** Are You a Shepherd? (MV 126)

## *We Respond to God's Grace...*

\* **PROFESSION OF FAITH** A New Creed

(UCC)

We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:  
who has created  
and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus,  
crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (VU 960, sung)

**OFFERING** *Our offering is now collected after the offering prayer.*

While we are not able to meet in the building,  
all our costs continue, and our revenue is reduced.  
We can receive donations by mail (cheque), online, or  
e-transfer. Contact the church office  
[accounting@graceunitedthornbury.ca](mailto:accounting@graceunitedthornbury.ca) if you wish to  
sign up for monthly givings by PAR.

The offering also honours all the ways we give,  
so please take a moment to draw to mind the many  
ways you share of the gifts God has given you: life, love,  
time, talents, possessions, riches.

As you honour those we pray:

PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF GIFTS AND SELF (AWA)

**God of our waking, receive these monetary gifts,  
that they may bring the goodness of our ministry  
to your world.**

**Receive also the gifts of our transformed lives,  
as we open our hearts  
to perceive our short-sightedness.**

**Give us the vision to offer our lives  
in service of you.**

**Light our paths, and shine through our lives,  
as we follow you. Amen.**

OFFERTORY Allemande

~ J. S. Bach

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*We Go Out to Share God's Love!*

\* **HYMN** The Lord's My Shepherd (VU 747)

\* **BLESSING** (AWA)

Go forth, woke to the call of God, your creator.  
Go forth, true to the path lit by Christ, your redeemer.  
Go forth, woke to the conscience of the Holy Spirit,  
your helper and guide.

\* **SUNG SENDING** VU 961

**Let us, O God, depart in peace,  
who in your name are gathered here.  
Disclose the brightness of your face,  
and be forever near.**

**POSTLUDE** *Improvisation*

~ G. Fauré

**LENTEN COMMUNION**

*Watch for an e-blast with a link to join the Lenten Communion Service  
by Zoom at 6:30 on Wednesday night.*

*Bring your own bread and grape (or apple or cranberry) juice,  
and participate wherever you are able to connect to the internet.*

**SOURCES: The following are used with permission:**

**SPOKEN LITURGY**

Affirmation of Faith: **"A New Creed,"** The United Church of Canada, General Council 1968, alt. 1998

(AWA) Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession, Words of Assurance, Prayer of Dedication and Benediction:

By Karen Clark Ristine, from **The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020**, © Abingdon Press

(RW) Prayer for Illumination: From **Gathering**, Lent/Easter/ 2020: Written by Roxanne Williams , p 37

**MUSIC**

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**"Are You a Shepherd,"** by Sally Ann Morris, Thomas H. Troeger; Tune: © 2009 GIA Publications, Ind. Text: ©2002 Oxford University Press.

***All other music performed is in the public domain.***

**GRACE UNITED CHURCH**

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**OUR STAFF**

**Minister:**

Rev. Thérèse Samuel

**Music Director:**

Dr. Christopher Burton

**Administrator:**

Rosemary Adams

**Custodian:**

Lisa Green



The Chancel Drama during this service:  
**"The Lord is my Camel Guide"**  
 was written by Thérèse Samuel

CAST AND CREW:

**Esther:** Marilyn Parkin

**Jonah:** Paul Parkin

**Minister:** Rev. Thérèse Samuel

**Musician:** Dr. Christopher Burton

**Camel Puppeteer:** Phyllis Fleming

**Sound Tech:** John Hunter

**Videographer:** Thérèse Samuel