

Jasper United Church

Feb. 25th, 2024

Second Sunday of Lent

JUC Mission Statement

“Our mission is to worship God and deepen our Christian faith.

We strive to seek justice, to be an inclusive, caring and accepting community,
and to be stewards of God’s world.”

Who is our neighbour: the Samaritan? the outcast? the enemy?

Yes, yes, of course. But it is also the whale, the dolphin, and the rain forest.

Our neighbor is the entire community of life, the entire universe.

We must love it all as ourselves.

— Brian Patrick in *Earthspirit: A Handbook for Nurturing an Ecological*

WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome

Territorial Acknowledgement

Announcements

Celebrations and Remembrances

Settling Moment

Lighting the Christ Candle

We light this candle as a symbol of the light of Christ, which cannot be held back by doubt or by death. This light, our guide. No matter where we find ourselves, this light will bring us home.

Christ’s love shines for the world.

Call to Worship

Here we are

We are here

Humans created from the humus of the ground

Formed from the dust, formed by spirit breath.

We are here

Here we are

Born of soil

Sister and brother to dirt

We are of earth

All of us,

creatures, humans, planet

Here we are

We are here

Made to be part of God’s created world

Made of love to love

Loving Earth as we love ourselves

We are here.

We come in love

We come in worship.

(adapted with permission from *Lament for the Earth, The Many*)

Opening Hymn: Touch the Earth Lightly (4v)

VU 307

Opening Prayer

God of Abraham and Sarah and Hagar, God of those first long-ago followers of Jesus, God of earth and sky. God of breath of life. God of seekers and followers. We are also seekers of your way. The landscape is strange. What are these crosses you ask us to bear? Identities to let go of? It’s a long journey. We wonder- who are we? Where are we going? How will we get there? What will we lose along the way? What will we find? These and all our questions, these and all our fears, we give to you God. May we hear the word your Wisdom and Compassion would offer us today. Amen.

(adapted with permission from *Let Us Pray*, Jane Doull)

Lenten Stone Liturgy – Our Fasting Journey

Yet even now, says the LORD,

return to me with all your hearts,

with fasting, with weeping, and with sorrow (CEB) Joel 2: 12

Sung Response:

Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights

VU 108 (v1)

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Holy One, God of loving mercy

Lead us in your truth, Teach us your way!
Nourish our souls with your Word.
In Christ's name, we ask. Amen

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 17:1-7, 15 – 16

Psalm 22 : 23 – 31 **VU 746**

Refrain - Jesus, Remember Me **VU 148**

Mark 8:31-38

These are the stories of God's faithful people.

All: Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Hymn: O Jesus, I Have Promised (4v)

VU 120

GOD NURTURES – WE RESPOND

Mission and Service

Offering Hymn: Grant Us, God, the Grace

VU 540

Offering Prayer

As we walk these Lenten days, desiring to be close to you, take all that we are, all that we offer and make us more for your good purposes. Let this be our Lenten fast. Amen

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

WE GO FORTH

Closing Hymn: As Long as We Follow (4v)

MV 140

Commissioning & Benediction

Postlude

Ministers: All of us by the grace of God

Worship Leader: Rev. Linda McLaren Musician: John Mandelin