

Gladwin Heights United Church

We are called to be the united church. Mission is our home. We foster belonging; provide spiritual accompaniment; and ask the deep questions

The Fifth Sunday in Lent April 6, 2025

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

++ Please rise in body or spirit
MV = More Voices; VU = Voices United

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING:

God be with you.

And also with you.

TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

We worship on the unceded territory of the Halq'eméylem-speaking peoples. Following the recommend practice, we acknowledge the territory extemporaneously.

We light the Christ Candle.

We light the Rainbow Candle.

WE WELCOME EACH OTHER:

We gather for worship in Abbotsford and in Mission, like many others before us.

We gather to worship God, as did our ancestors in the faith for many generations.

We gather in faith, knowing that God is faithful.

We gather in hope, for Christ is our hope.

WE CENTRE IN GOD:

Faithful and hope-filled God,
you keep the faith with us.

With faith in us, you dream and hope for a better tomorrow.

In Christ you go before us to prepare a place for us.

**Make your presence known among us now;
lead in the right paths;
in Jesus' name.**

++**HYMN:** VU 651 – “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD:

You call us, God;

you offer us a future.

Yet this future is unknown,

the destination unclear.

And so we often prefer to stay with the familiar and the unsatisfying.

We stay in the old patterns, wounded and wounding in turn.

[Silent Prayer]

AND WE ARE ACCEPTED:

Therefore God comes to us,

to show oppressors and oppressed together a better way.

God comes to us in the Christ,

in the creative and active Word:

in Jesus, in Mary, in Peter and Esther,

**in those who, like the Ethiopian eunuch, remain unnamed
yet dared to hope in God.**

We have a home; we have a future;

let us live into God's present.

WE RESPOND: MV 92 – “Like a Rock”

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

SCRIPTURE: Carlene Stein
Hebrews 11:8-16
Isaiah 35 [VU 881]
Luke 20:27-40

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON:

++**HYMN:** VU 706 – “Give Thanks for Life”

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S LOVE

PASSING THE PEACE:
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER VU 921 [Ecumenical Version]

MISSION AND SERVICE STORIES:

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:
Let us present our offering to the work of God.

++**OFFERTORY:** MV 182 – “Grateful” v2 with Refrain

The offering is brought forward.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS:
Siblings in Christ,
in the desert Satan tempted Christ
to use God’s gifts for his own benefit.
But he refused, for he knew who and whose he was.
We also are the gifts of God:
We are for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

++HYMN: VU 713 – “I See a New Heaven”

WE GO OUT TO SERVE GOD

++COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

EXTROIT: VU 442a – “Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters”
[verse 3 for adult baptism, tune: VU 559]

POSTLUDE

END OF WORSHIP

BEGINNING OF SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY