

TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE *(A Lenten Spiritual Practice)*

Lent Challenge 2

Anne Wilson

CHORAL RESPONSE – “Silent Spring Song” *(Verse 2)*
(Words by Shirley Erena Murray/Music by Ron Klusmeier)

***Silent voices in bush and tree,
silent the creatures of air and sea,
God, help your children mindfully listen:
ours are the hands that took earth for free.
Silent spring,
silent spring.***

***GREETING ONE ANOTHER** *(responsively)*

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

SHARING A STORY *(with those of all ages)*

??? & ???

Luke 13:34

***SINGING A SONG** – “We Will Bring Your Peace into the World”
(Seasons of the Spirit Vol. 3)

Refrain

We will bring your peace into the world.

We will bring your peace into the world.

With a loving hand do the best we can.

We will bring your peace to the world.

Jesus you ask us to be gentle,
Jesus you ask us to be kind,
to take good care of each other,
then your peace will be here for all to find.

Refrain

Jesus, you ask us to be friendly,
Jesus you ask us to be fair,
to take good care of each other,
then your peace will be here for all to share.

Refrain

We will bring your peace into the world.

We will bring your peace into the world.

With a loving hand do the best we can.

We will bring your peace to the world.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Wayne Lord

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Luke 13:31-35

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC –

Linda Knowles MacPherson

“May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You”

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

***OFFERING PRAYER** *(in unison)*

**Holy One,
may these gifts be a catalyst for truth
about how we are blessed
and how we are broken
and how we are given to the world
for hope and healing.
Amen**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(responsively)*

...Many paths

many journeys

many ways

many chances

each person

loved by you, Holy One,

every place

where love is met.



THE LORD'S PRAYER – VU #921 (Ecumenical Version) *(in unison)*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever.**

Amen.

GOING OUT (as God's people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** – “I Have Called You by Your Name” – MV #161

I have called you by your name, you are mine;

I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.

I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.

You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.

I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name, speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body given long ago.

I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.

I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul, make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.

*BLESSING

***CHORAL CLOSING** – “An Old Irish Blessing”

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be ever at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face

and the rains fall soft upon your fields.

And until we meet again, and until we meet again,

May you be held in the hollow of God's hand.

(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)

POSTLUDE



Church News

The regular church office hours are Monday to Friday 9 AM to 3 PM. Please note the office will be closing at 1:30 PM on Friday, March 18th.

Peanut Butter Update - As of March 10th, 2022, **51** jars of Peanut Butter have been collected to go to the Bathurst Volunteer Center and an additional **96** jars have been dropped off directly at the Centre from the donations made to the church office. Peanut butter can be dropped off at the church office anytime during office hours.

Considering pandemic restrictions, the Community Outreach sub-team consulted our regional council, formerly Maritime Conference, re how to best coordinate outreach projects. As a result, *we were encouraged to recommend monetary donations*, rather than receive actual jars of peanut butter, for which receipts are possible but a definite hassle. Thus, we trust that folks will continue contributing to this worthwhile cause & support same appropriately. For more information, please contact Margaret at the church office (546-3532).

Should you wish to make a monetary donation you may now do so by **issuing your cheque to First United Church**, indicating it is to be used for the purchase of Peanut Butter. Your donation will be marked as such and will be included on your annual tax receipt. Your cheques can be dropped off at the church office or mailed to 309 St. Patrick Street, Bathurst NB E2A 1E2. Periodically someone from our Community Outreach Team will purchase the peanut butter and have it delivered directly to the Volunteer Center.

Purses Plus – The Community Outreach Sub-team, in consultation with Passage House, a residence for the abused, has decided to coordinate a project in support of needy residents. Supplies will be gathered, delivered to Passage House and replenished, as available. Requested supplies include, but are not limited to used purses in good condition, reusable shopping bags, tooth brushes/past, hand/body cream, soap/shower gel, hair combs/brushes, nail files/clippers or cleaning supplies. Donated items may be deposited in a designated container in the narthex. For more information please contact Helen Knowles at 546-9563.

Church News

TAKE OUT Roast Pork Supper will be held on Thursday, March 24th from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM. Tickets will be available starting February 22nd - \$15 for adults and \$6 for children. As there are a limited number of tickets they will be sold on a first come-first served basis. Please contact a member of the *Ways & Means Committee* or drop by the church office. ***Sponsored by Kent & White Insurance***

News reports of the invasion of Ukraine stir both our hearts and our conscience. As people of faith, The United Church of Canada holds in prayer all those facing fear and violence and seeks the immediate cessation of war. To donate money to help **Ukraine**, through the United Church of Canada, go to this link: <https://united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/conflict-ukraine>

Community News

St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, will be having a Baked Ham Take-Out Dinner on Saturday, March 19th from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for children under 12 and are available from the Church Office (546-3225).

Free Tax Clinics – KC Irving Center

March 28 to April 1 and April 4 to 8 from 9 AM to 3 PM

Do you need help with your tax return? The Community Volunteer Tax Program (CVITP) is collaboration between the Canada Revenue Agency and community organizations. If you have a modest income and a simple tax situation, volunteers from CVITP may be able to complete your tax return for you, free of charge.

An individual with income less than \$35,000, a two person family with income less than \$45,000, plus \$2,500 for each additional person in the family can get their return done **free**.

If you are unable to attend the clinic at KC Irving Center contact either Margaret Payne-Chénard or Mike Kierstead (548-4393) and an arrangement can be made for preparing your return.

AN INTERESTING IDEA FOR 2022

Around the New Testament in 80 Days. Our United Church Moderator, Richard Bott, is inviting us to read through the New Testament between now and Easter. He is selecting five readings a week and suggesting for each we ponder these questions:

- Was there anything here that surprised me, or jumped out at me?
- What did I learn (if anything) about being a disciple of Jesus when the text was written?
- What might this text be saying to my life, today? What might God be inviting me to do or be through my understanding?

Each reading takes about 15 minutes – and you can easily catch up if you are a day or two behind!

If interested, checkout Moderator Richard Bott on Facebook -- Around the New Testament in 80 Days - it begins! #InspiredbyScripture.

Each day he will be posting a link on Facebook to the New Revised Standard Version of the reading for the day on <https://www.facebook.com/ModeratorRichardBott>.

If you've got thoughts or comments about the reading, you'll be welcome to post them as comments on the daily posts.

Here's the list for the last 8 weeks:

Week 9

28-Feb John 17-19 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507876893>
01-Mar John 20-21 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507876908>
02-Mar 1 & 2 Timothy <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507876954>
03-Mar Titus <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507876974>
04-Mar Hebrews 1-5 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507876996>

Week 10

07-Mar Hebrews 6-10 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877011>
08-Mar Hebrews 11-13 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877027>
09-Mar James <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877044>
10-Mar 1 & 2 John <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877089>
11-Mar 3 John and Jude <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877110>

Week 11

14-Mar 1 Peter <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877131>
15-Mar 2 Peter <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877151>
16-Mar Revelation 1-4 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877176>
17-Mar Revelation 5-8 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877198>
18-Mar Revelation 9-13 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877215>

Week 12

21-Mar Revelation 14-18 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877232>
22-Mar Revelation 19-20 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877247>
23-Mar Revelation 21-22 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877262>
24-Mar Luke 1-2 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877277>
25-Mar Luke 3-4 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877292>

Week 13

28-Mar Luke 5-6 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877314>
29-Mar Luke 7-8 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877331>
30-Mar Luke 9-10 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877346>
31-Mar Luke 11-12 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877363>
01-Apr Luke 13-14 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877378>

Week 14

04-Apr Luke 15-16 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877402>
05-Apr Luke 17-18 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877419>
06-Apr Luke 19-21 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877435>
07-Apr Luke 22-23 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877452>
08-Apr Luke 24 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877468>

Week 15

11-Apr Acts 1-3 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877483>
12-Apr Acts 4-6 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877499>
13-Apr Acts 7-8 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877517>
14-Apr Acts 9-10 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877534>
15-Apr Acts 11-13 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877550>

Week 16

18-Apr Acts 14-16 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877568>
19-Apr Acts 17-19 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877585>
20-Apr Acts 20-22 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877601>
21-Apr Acts 23-25 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877619>
22-Apr Acts 26-28 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=507877635>

COVID-19 Procedures Update

As we have all worked so diligently to keep our community and our First United Church family as safe as possible, we are moving cautiously to reduce the pandemic restrictions. The plan our COVID-19 Response Team has developed is as follows:

Effective March 6, 2022:

- There is no longer any requirement for all entering the church building to be fully vaccinated.
- All other public health practices continue to remain in effect.

Effective March 14, 2022:

- Prior registration to attend worship services is discontinued.
- Signing-in at the entrances is discontinued.
- Hand sanitization **will** continue at the entrances.
- We welcome and encourage all who would prefer to wear masks and continue to maintain physical distancing to do so. Wearing of masks and physical distancing are no longer requirements.
- If you have symptoms of a respiratory illness, please do not attend the church.
- Deep cleaning of the church building will continue, and our ventilation system will remain turned on during the Services and office hours.
- The Minister will not wear a mask while in the Chancel, and speakers may choose not to wear a mask.
- Congregational singing and occasional soloists will continue – with and without masks depending on the person's preference.

Effective later in April if all goes well:

In addition to the above,

- The choir may return!
- Hymnbooks will be available in the chairs and pews.
- Refreshments after church may occur, possibly outside initially.

Many, many thanks to all of you for your continued support, encouragement and eye-smiles during these past two years. We are indeed a people of love and hope!!!

Your COVID-19 Response Team

SCRIPTURE READINGS – NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

GENESIS 15:1-12, 17-18

1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."

2 But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

3 And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir."

4 But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir."

5 He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

6 And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

7 Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess."

8 But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?"

9 He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."

10 He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.

11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.

18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

LUKE 13:31-35

31 At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.'

32 He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.

33 Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem."

34 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

35 See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."