



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

Lent Challenge 3

*Isabel MacLaggan*

**CHORAL RESPONSE** "Silent Spring Song" *(Verse 3)*  
*(Words by Shirley Erena Murray/Music by Ron Klusmeier)*

***We are the root of the earth's unease,  
we are the pirates who dredge the seas,  
God, help your children mindfully listen:  
ours is the creed doing as we please.  
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)*  
*Brenda Parrott & Cheryl Brewster*

Luke 13:7-9

**\*SINGING A SONG** VU #299  
"Teach Me, God, to Wonder"

Teach me, God, to wonder, teach me, God, to see;  
let your world of beauty capture me.

*Refrain*  
*Praise to you be given, love for you be lived,  
life be celebrated, joy you give.*

Let me, God, be open, let me loving be;  
let your world of people speak to me.

*Refrain*

Let me, God, be ready, let me be awake,  
in your world of loving my place take.

*Refrain*

*Praise to you be given, love for you be lived,  
life be celebrated, joy you give.*

Teach me, God, to know you, hear you when you speak,  
see you in my neighbour when we meet.

*Refrain*

*ENGAGING*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*Helen Knowles*

Isaiah 55:1-9

Luke 13:1-9

**REFLECTION**

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**GIFT OF MUSIC**

*Isabel & John Clouston*

*RESPONDING*

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

*Bev Murphy*

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

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

**Holy One,  
add to your table of generosity,  
all we bring today.**

**Place our gifts among those  
whose lives are failing to grow  
because they wait for justice.**

**Then—lead us on toward ever-expanding horizons  
for growing in the life of Christ.**

**Amen**

## SHARING OUR CONCERNS

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

**Our Father, 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.**

*GOING OUT (as People of the Spirit)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*CLOSING HYMN – “Blessed Assurance” – VU #337

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.

*Refrain*

*This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight!  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending, bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

*Refrain*

*This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love.

*Refrain*

### \*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.

**Peanut Butter Update** - As of March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, **57** jars of Peanut Butter have been collected to go to the Bathurst Volunteer Center and an additional **106** jars have been dropped off directly at the Centre from the monetary donations made at the church office. Peanut butter can be dropped off at the church office anytime during office hours. We have an additional \$250 collected for the next group purchase.

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/paste, 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.

**Ways & Means Team** will meet on Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 9 AM in the Ruth Morrison Room.

# Church News

**TAKE OUT Roast Pork Supper** will be held on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM. Tickets will be available starting February 22<sup>nd</sup> - \$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>



A donation of 2 boxes of yarn has been given to First United Church. Anyone who wishes to knit items is welcome to use this yarn and return the items to the church for the Community Outreach team to donate. Recommendations are hats, mitts and/or socks.

## **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.

# Lenten Challenges

Today is the third Sunday in Lent. Each week during Lent this year, a Lenten challenge will be offered. After speaking the words, a symbol of the challenge and a sign with the challenge written on it will be placed on the table.

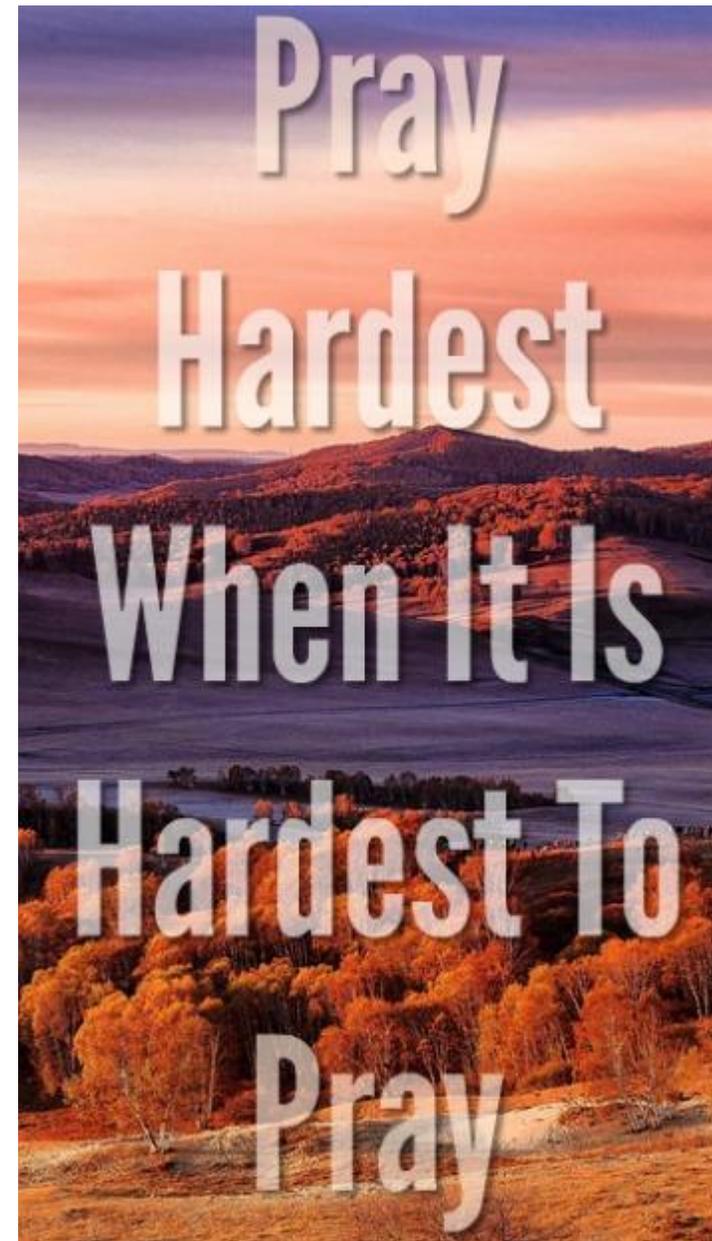


The first week, we asked everyone to do a random act of generosity.



Last week, we asked everyone to express gratitude to someone they don't usually thank and to name three things for which they were grateful every day.

This week, your challenge is to pray for an enemy. Every day we would like you to spend some time praying for someone who has hurt or offended you. Or you might pray for someone with whom you are having a difficult relationship or someone you just don't see eye to eye with. Take some time every day to pray for that person, or simply send them love and compassion. So, that's your challenge for the coming week.



## SCRIPTURE READINGS – NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

### ISAIAH 55:1-9

1 Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

3 Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

4 See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

5 See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

6 Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;

7 let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

### LUKE 13:1-9

1 At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

2 He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?"

3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.

4 Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?"

5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

6 Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.

7 So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?'

8 He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it.

9 If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"