



Image: Christ the Light by Iconographer Kelly Latimore, printed with permission

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026 | 10:30am



Gathering in the FBCH Sanctuary

Prayer candles are available in the north transept if you would like to light one as part of your prayer this morning. For more information about the life of FBCH, visit our website: fbchalifax.ca or like us on social media.

*Stand as you are able

Wifi Password for FBCH Guest: youareloved

May God,
who comes to us
in the things of this world,
bless your eyes
and be in your seeing.

May Christ,
who looks upon you
with deepest love,
bless your eyes
and widen your gaze.

May the Spirit,
who perceives what is
and what may yet be,
bless your eyes
and sharpen your vision.

May the Sacred Three
bless your eyes
and cause you to see.

Blessing the Eyes by Jan Richardson

Prelude

Lynette Wahlstrom, Organ

Wir danken dir, Herr Jesu Christ -J. S. Bach

Welcome

Paula Zanella Antunes

If joining on Facebook Live or YouTube we invite you to say hello to everyone by posting a comment to the live stream.

Ringing of the Trinity

We Gather in the presence of God - Creator, Christ, and Spirit

Lenten Call to Confession

Rusty Edwards

Creator of life,
we are on the Way.

**We are journeying with Jesus
toward love lifted up,
toward abundant life
held open before us.**

This road asks more of us than we expected.
It reveals what we cling to,
what we fear to release,
what we have learned not to see.

**Light of the world,
our seeing is still incomplete.**

**We live with assumptions and half-truths,
and call them clarity.**

So we pause here, O God,
to tell the truth in your presence,
and to open ourselves again
to the life you offer.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Sung Response

Senior Choir

Kyrie from German Mass -F. Schubert, arr. Proulx
“Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy”

***Opening Hymn (next page)**

165 The Glory of These Forty Days

1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -
 4 Then grant that we like them be true, con -

cel - e - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, by whom all
 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride-groom's
 sumed in fast and prayer with you; our spir - its strength-en

things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
 with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Appropriate for singing at any time during Lent, this stately text connects Jesus' wilderness fast with the solitary testing of other prophetic souls: Moses, Elijah, Daniel, and John the Baptist. This sturdy 16th-century chorale melody formed the basis of Bach's *Cantata 126*.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Responsive Psalm 27:1-6

Laurie Cruess

The Inclusive Bible

Hal H. Hopson

Refrain

God is our ref - uge; God is our strength.

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O LORD, you are my light, my salvation—whom will I hear? You are the fortress of my life—of whom will I be afraid? When my enemies attack me, spreading vicious lies about me wherever they go, they, my adversaries and foes, will stumble and fall.

Though an army mounts a siege against me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, I'll still be confident. R
One thing I ask, O LORD, one thing I seek: that I may dwell in your house all the days of my life, to gaze on your beauty and to meditate in your Temple.

You will keep me safe in your shelter when trouble arises, you will hide me under the cover of your Tabernacle—you'll set me on a rock high and out of reach. R

*Children's Hymn

God Welcomes All 399

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

This "short song," as the Iona Community calls it, can be especially effective as a means of setting a welcoming tone for a service (especially an ecumenical one). Like most such songs, it needs to be sung several times, adding and improvising harmony with each repetition.

TEXT: John L. Bell, 2008
MUSIC: South African song; transcr. John L. Bell, 2008
Text and Music Transcr. © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

THEMBA AMEN
4.4.9

*Blessing of the Children

Beloved children of our church family: may God's Spirit be with you as you enter into the stories of our faith; may your imaginations be opened to encounter God's love for you and all the world; and may you be formed to care for others as you discover the Way of Jesus. Amen.

Children going into Primary-Grade 6 are invited to go to Godly Play.
Today's formation activities: Doing Justice with Refugee Committee

*Doxology - OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ, all people here below, Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

Donations

All contributions to FBCH support our mission and ministry and are greatly appreciated. Offering boxes are located at the side doors at the back of the Sanctuary. You can also go to our website fbchalifax.ca and click on the Ways to Give link for information about how to financially support the ministries of FBCH, including e-transfers or setting up recurring donations.

Gospel Reading: John 9:1-12

New Revised Standard Version

^{9:1}As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of the one who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

Reader For the Word of God in Scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Spoken Reflection

Rusty Edwards

Mirrors

Anthem

Soloist Leander Mendoza; Sr. Choir

Give Me Jesus -arr. Moses Hogan

Prayers of the People

Laurie Cruess

Lord's Prayer

Our Creator, 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, for ever and ever.

Amen.

***Closing Hymn (next page)**

797 We Cannot Measure How You Heal

1 We can - not mea - sure how you heal or
 2 The pain that will not go a - way, the
 3 So some have come who need your help and

an - swer ev - ery suf - ferer's prayer, yet
 guilt that clings from things long past, the
 some have come to make a - mends, as

we be - lieve your grace re - sponds where
 fear of what the fu - ture holds, are
 hands which shaped and saved the world are

faith and doubt u - nite to care. Your
 pres - ent as if meant to last. But
 pres - ent in the touch of friends. Lord,

This 20th-century text from the Iona Community grapples with the realities of illness and pain, not only as they afflict the body but even more as they lay waste to mind and soul. The traditional folk melody helps to convey the sort of communal experience assumed in the last stanza.

hands, though blood - ied on the cross, sur -
 pres - ent too is love which tends the
 let your Spir - it meet us here to

vive to hold and heal and warn, to
 hurt we nev - er hoped to find, the
 mend the bod - y, mind, and soul, to

car - ry all through death to life and
 pri - vate ag - o - nies in - side, the
 dis - en - tan - gle peace from pain, and

cra - dle chil - dren yet un - born.
 mem - o - ries that haunt the mind.
 make your bro - ken peo - ple whole.

Benediction

Rusty Edwards

Amen

Postlude

Duet, Leander Mendoza & Joseph Goodwin

Pie Jesu - Andrew Lloyd-Weber

“Merciful Jesus, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us rest”

THE WEEK AHEAD AT FBCH

Sunday, February 22 - First Sunday in Lent

10:30am - Sunday Worship; Sanctuary
11:45am - Petals, Pipes and Pizza; Sanctuary

Tuesday, February 24 - Wednesday, February 25

Staff Retreat - Church Office Closed

Thursday, February 26

7-9pm - Choir Practice; Sanctuary

Sunday, March 1

10:30am - Sunday Worship; Sanctuary
11:45am - Annual Congregational Meeting; Sanctuary and Zoom

For details go to fbchalifax.ca or read News Notes

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Special thanks to today's worship leaders:

Leander Mendoza
Joseph Goodwin
Laurie Cruess

FIND OUT MORE

fbchalifax.ca 

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FIRST
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Breaking Stereotypes Since 1827

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The story of the early church in the New Testament is a story of the ever-expanding circle of those included in the community of Jesus. We believe that circle expands to include all people.

Because we are followers of Jesus, First Baptist Church Halifax welcomes all people into the full life of the church community. This means we will not discriminate on the grounds of gender, age, race, national or ethnic origin, colour, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or economic circumstances.

We really do want you to join us. Our diversity helps us all expand our understandings of God.

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