

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026 | 10:30am



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



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

Let us say
this blessing began
whole and complete
upon the page.

And then let us say
that one word loosed itself
and another followed it
in turn.

Let us say
this blessing started
to shed all
it did not need,
that line by line
it returned
to the ground
from which it came.

Let us say
this blessing is not
leaving you,
is not abandoning you
to the wild
that lies ahead,

but that it is loathe
to load you down
on this road where
you will need
to travel light.

Let us say
perhaps this blessing
became the path
beneath your feet,
the desert
that stretched before you,
the clear sight
that finally came.

Let us say
that when this blessing
at last came to its end,
all it left behind
was bread,
wine,
a fleeting flash
of wing.

Prelude

Lynette Wahlstrom, Organ

Christe, aller Welt Trost -BWV 673, 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.

**We confess how easily fear shapes our choices
when power presses in.**

**We go along to get through,
and tell ourselves we had no other way.**

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)**

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me 775

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

The two equal phrases in each line suggest that this African American spiritual shares some characteristics of work or field songs that were used to coordinate the efforts of slaves involved in tasks (road clearing, ditch digging, etc.) that needed combined rhythmic strokes.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Responsive Psalm 146:3-9

Luke Dowding

The Inclusive Bible



Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. Praise the name of the Lord

The image shows a single line of musical notation on a five-line staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes.

Do not trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no salvation. When their spirits depart, they return to the earth, and on that day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the Creator of the world, whose hope is in the LORD, their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in it. *R*

O LORD, you keep faith forever:
**you secure justice for the oppressed;
you give food to the hungry;
you set captives free;
you give sight to the blind;
you raise up those who were bowed down;
you love those who do justice;
you protect strangers;
you sustain orphans and the bereaved—
but you thwart the way of the corrupt. *R***

*Children's Hymn

God Welcomes All 399

The musical score is written for a four-part setting in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The lyrics are: "God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;". The second system also has a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "God's love is strong and it nev - er ends." The piano accompaniment features chords and single notes, with some rests indicated by the number 8.

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

Children's Story

Rusty Edwards

*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 the Outreach 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 18:1-11, 33-40

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

^{18:1}After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ²Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place because Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" ⁵They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. ⁷Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." ⁸Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these people go." ⁹This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." ¹⁰Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. ¹¹Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Creator has given me?..."

... ³³Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵Pilate replied, "I am not a Religious Leader, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Religious Leaders. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Religious Leaders again and told them, "I find no case against him. ³⁹But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰They shouted in reply, "Not this man but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a rebel.

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

Luke Dowding

Anthem

Sr. Choir

Prayer to Jesus -Oldroyd

Prayers of the People

Rusty Edwards

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)**

224 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down; did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

This carefully crafted text from the beginning of the 18th century conveys much the same intensity and vividness as a miniature painting of Christ's crucifixion, and this lyrical and dignified tune reinforces the sense that time stands still while we share such meditation.

Benediction

Rusty Edwards

Amen

Postlude

Lynette Wahlstrom, organ

Adagio - Widor

THE WEEK AHEAD AT FBCH

Sunday, March 22

10:30am - Sunday Worship; Sanctuary
Guest Preacher: Rev. Luke Dowding
12:00pm - Youth Group

Monday, March 23

1:00pm - Auxiliary Meeting; Parlour

Thursday, March 26

7-9pm - Choir Practice; Sanctuary

Friday, March 27

7pm - More Songs from the Heart: A Kitchen Concert;
Sanctuary

Palm Sunday, March 29

10:30am - Sunday Worship; Sanctuary
11:45am - Bake and Craft Sale; Sanctuary
11:45am - Just Lunch and Easter Egg Hunt; Parlour

For details go to fbchalifax.ca or read News Notes

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**Special thanks to
today's worship leaders:**

Luke Dowding

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FIRST
BAPTIST
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HALIFAX

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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