



Image: Christ Compassion by Iconographer Kelly Latimore, printed with permission

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 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: fbchalfax.ca or like us on social media.

*Stand as you are able

Wifi Password for FBCH Guest: youareloved

So may we know
the hope
that is not just
for someday
but for this day—
here, now,
in this moment
that opens to us:
hope not made
of wishes
but of substance,
hope made of sinew
and muscle
and bone,
hope that has breath
and a beating heart,
hope that will not
keep quiet
and be polite,
hope that knows
how to holler
when it is called for,
hope that knows
how to sing
when there seems
little cause,
hope that raises us
from the dead—
not someday
but this day,
every day,
again and
again and
again.

Blessing of hope by Jan Richardson

Prelude

Lynette Wahlstrom, Organ

Be Thou My Vision - arr. Watts

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 hard it is to keep going
when love asks us to move without certainty.
We reach for what we can control,
and struggle to rest in what will carry us.**

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)**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jesus Calls Us

720

1 Je - sus calls us: o'er the tu - mult of our
 2 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
 3 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 4 Je - sus calls us: by thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,

life's wild, rest - less sea; day by day his sweet voice
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
 may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thy o -

sound - eth say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me."
 keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
 plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
 be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.

Like many hymns that adults have come to cherish, this text based on Jesus' calling of the disciple Andrew was written for a 19th-century collection of hymns for children. The popular tune used here was composed for these words more than a quarter of a century later.

***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: Music and Godly Play Story

***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 13:33-17:26 (excerpts from Farewell Discourse)

New Revised Standard Version

^{13:33}“...Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the people so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another...”

^{14:18}“...I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Creator, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Creator, and I will love them and reveal myself to them....”

²⁵“...I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Creator will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid...”

^{15:12}“...This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have

called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Creator. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Creator will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another...”

^{17:20}“...I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Creator, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴Creator, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵“Righteous Creator, the world does not know you, but I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and I in them.”

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

A Fond Adieu

Rusty Edwards

Anthem

Let Thy Merciful Ears, O Lord -Thomas Mudd

Sr. Choir

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)**

800 Sometimes a Light Surprises



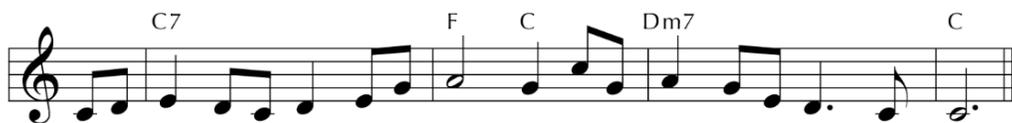
1 Some - times a light sur - pris - es the child of God who sings;
 2 In ho - ly con - tem - pla - tion we sweet - ly then pur - sue
 3 It can bring with it noth - ing but he will bear us through;
 4 Though vine nor fig tree nei - ther their longed - for fruit should bear,



it is the Lord who ris - es with heal - ing in his wings;
 the theme of God's sal - va - tion and find it ev - er new;
 who gives the lil - ies cloth - ing will clothe his peo - ple, too;
 though all the fields should with - er, nor flocks nor herds be there,



when com - forts are de - clin - ing, he grants the soul a - gain
 set free from pres - ent sor - row, we cheer - ful - ly can say,
 be - neath the spread - ing heav - ens no crea - ture but is fed;
 yet God the same a - bid - ing, his praise shall tune my voice;



a sea - son of clear shin - ing to cheer it af - ter rain.
 "Let the un - known to - mor - row bring with it what it may."
 and he who feeds the ra - vens will give his chil - dren bread.
 for while in him con - fid - ing, I can - not but re - joice.

This is one of the few hymns rooted in what can happen during worship, and that experience—gaining a spiritual insight while singing—is no less possible now than when this text was written in the 18th century. It is set here to a folk song variously labeled Irish or English.

Benediction

Rusty Edwards

Amen

Postlude

Lynette Wahlstrom, Organ

Gigue Fugue -D. Buxtehude

THE WEEK AHEAD AT FBCH

Sunday, March 15

10:30am - Sunday Worship; Sanctuary

12:00am - University Lunch; Parlour

Tuesday, March 17

7:00pm - Deacons Meeting; Community Room

Wednesday, March 18

7:00pm - Sacred Silence Sacred Sounds; Sanctuary

Thursday, March 19

7-9pm - Choir Practice; Sanctuary

Sunday, March 22

10:30am - Sunday Worship; Sanctuary

Guest Preacher: Rev. Luke Dowding

12:00pm - Youth Group

For details go to fbchalifax.ca or read News Notes

CONNECT WITH FBCH STAFF

Paula Zanello Antunes | Community Engagement Lead

paulaantunes@fbchalifax.ca

David Bourque | Lay Minister

davidbourque30@gmail.com

John Dalton | Lay Minister

johndalton.hfx@gmail.com

Rusty Edwards | Senior Minister

rustyedwards@fbchalifax.ca

Jean Ferguson | Congregational Coordinator

office@fbchalifax.ca

Arla Johnson | Minister of Inclusive Community

arlajohnson@fbchalifax.ca

Lynette Wahlstrom | Director of Music

lynettewahlstrom@fbchalifax.ca

Special thanks to
today's worship leaders:

Laurie Cruess
Callum Hunter

FIND OUT MORE

fbchalifax.ca 

CONNECT ONLINE

First Baptist Church Halifax 

[fbchalifax](https://www.facebook.com/fbchalifax) 

First Baptist Church Halifax 



FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH
HALIFAX

Breaking Stereotypes Since 1827

*Music reprinted and streamed by permission; One License #A-734863; CCLI Licence #3493424

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.

PRINTED
ON:
10



Carbon neutral and made from recycled sugar cane fibre.