

Feb 21, 2021 – First Sunday in Lent

The Church gathers – we come together as people of the spirit

Welcome and Announcements

Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory

The Church gathers - we come together as people of the Spirit

Welcome and Announcements

Recognition of Traditional Territory

Call to Worship / Candle Lighting

The journey through the 40 begins

God invites and waits for our response

Forty days drifting in unknown water

Forty days of wilderness testing

And yet, and yet, even now

the flame of faith is lit... (*candle lighting*)

in our hearts, in our gathering, in our worship.

God invites and we respond – Praise to be God!

Opening Hymn **VU 308, Many and Great**

Our Prayer for the Day and the Lord's Prayer

Holy One,

as much as we long for a place certainty,
you walk with us in the places of confusion,
as we learn to trust in your promise.

When the waters of anxiety rise around us,
you call us into a community bound towards a future,

When the only way to discover the truth of who we are
is through voices that test our identity,
you teach to us confidence in our calling.

God of covenant promise,
we dare to confess how hard the path seems.

Forgive us when we falter and discouragement overtakes us,
Forgive us when we are tempted to take the short-cut;
Forgive us when we faith escapes us and we lose sight of what
can be.

Open our eyes to the rainbow at the end of the journey.
Open our souls to the assurance that we are your beloved.
So we like Noah may risk the voyage,
and we like Jesus, may walk in love and justice.
We pray as Jesus taught us... **Lord's Prayer**

Words of Affirmation and Assurance

To Hear the Story – we listen for the wisdom of God's spirit

Scripture in Story: Genesis 9:8–17 *Lillian Roberts*

Gospel Lesson: Mark 1: 9-15 *Jillian Yackobeck*

One: These words are offered as wisdom for our journey.

All: Let us walk together in their truth

The Proclamation “Living in the In Between”

Music for Reflection

To Be the Story – we respond with spirit-filled faith and service

Offering the Prayers of the People

Natalie Wilson & Beth Ward

Marking a Beginning

Minister: On this first Sunday of Lent, we begin a new season of the church year, and we begin a new season in the life of St. Andrew's. I offer myself as your partner in ministry as we enter this season of transition.

Congregation: We welcome you as our partner in ministry and we embrace this season of transition. We will use our hands and hearts, our vision and voices, to heal and not to harm this beloved community through this time of transition.

Minister: I will share my observations and my truth with you, and listen deeply and learn, that we may grow in wisdom and vision and understanding. I will respect and honour your gifts, and challenge your old patterns. I will pray for you and with you that we may walk faithfully.

Congregation: We will dare to speak our truth, to dream what we may become, and to freely venture the untried. We will respect your leadership and pray for our ministry together.

All: May we be a blessing to each other; and together, be a blessing to the world.

Offertory Hymn (VU 542)

We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

To Tell the Story – the sending forth

Hymn VU 675, Will Your Anchor Hold

The Sending Forth

Blessed in the Ark of Community,
Blessed in the wilderness of testing, we embrace the journey.
Enter into these forty with courage and with faith,
Let God's love overtake any anxiety,
Let God's grace break grey sky with the colours of promise,
Let God's hope lead towards a new tomorrow.

Choral Response

As our path wanders onward to the rising of the sun,
may the wind that moves among us, help us travel through
all harm, 'til the evening of life shines forth into dawn, may
God be with us as we go, as we go, in peace. (© 1990 Ralph
Johnston)

Worship Leadership Team

Interim Minister: Rev. Lillian Roberts

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Worship at St. Andrew's "Living in the In-Between"



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