

**First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge  
Sunday, March 16th, 2025  
Second Sunday of Lent**

**Praise Medley:** Be Not Afraid  
I Saw the Light

**Greeting and Announcements**

**Introit:** Jesus, Draw Me Close

**Call to Worship:**

Today, God comes to us, to gather us in worship:  
**to wait in silence for the Word,  
to sit at the table of grace.**

Tomorrow, the Word of God comes, calling us to go forth to  
serve:

**to bring hope to those who have none,  
to love all tossed aside by indifference.**

The next day, and the next day, the Holy Spirit will come:

**so we might discover the gift of peace,  
and offer it to our broken world.**

**Prayer of Approach:** (unison)

**Holy One, today, you are on your way, gathering your  
children into your arms and offering them to us as precious  
gifts, so, through our sisters and brothers, we might be  
blessed.**

**Tomorrow, you are on your way, looking back to see if we  
will dare to follow you, imitating your every act of  
compassion and justice. The next day, you will be on your  
way, transforming our humiliation into grace, sheltering  
fear-filled people under the wings of your peace.**

**Today, tomorrow, and the next day, we will seek to be  
faithful, Holy One, even as we worship you. Amen.**

**Hymn:** Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah VU 651

**A Time for All People**

**Prayer of Confession:** (unison)

**Offered a feast at grace's table, God of the covenant, we  
choose to gorge ourselves on the empty calories of greed.  
Invited to live in your house, we move into death's fear-  
infested boarding house. Though you promise to be with  
us, we toss you aside, chasing after those who will abandon  
us at the first chance.**

**But you will not let the foxes of foolishness devour us, but  
will gather us under the shelter of your love. You do so in  
order to give us that peace which heals us, that wonder  
which surprises us, and that faith which enables us to let go  
of the present to walk into the covenant of grace made  
possible through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.**

(Silent reflection)

**Assurance of Pardon:**

God does not abandon us. Like a border collie, God gathers us  
up, leading us to that shelter of love and life.

**Today, tomorrow, and the next day, God's grace rests  
upon us and gives us hope and mercy. Thanks be to  
God! We are forgiven. Amen.**

**Hymn:** In the Bulb There Is a Flower VU 703

**Offertory Hymn:** Grateful

**Offertory Prayer:** (unison)

**As you have blessed us beyond all expectation and need,  
we would join in imitating you, by offering gifts which will  
bring hope, healing, and help to those who struggle in this  
life. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**Scripture Readings:**

Hebrew Scriptures: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalms 27 **on page 754 of VU**

Epistle Lesson: Philippians 3:17 - 4:1

Gospel Lesson: Luke 13:31-35

**Hymn:** Heavenly Sunlight

**Meditation**

**Ministry of Music**

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

**Prayer Response:** Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying  
**VU 400**

**Hymn:** Mansion Over the Hilltop

**Commission and Benediction:**

Today, tomorrow, and the next day, go with God:

**we will take the Word of grace into our world.**

Today, tomorrow, and the next days, go with Jesus:

**we will shelter those who have nowhere else to go.**

Today, tomorrow, and all the days to come, go with the Spirit:

**we will gather the forsaken into our hearts.**