

**First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge
Sunday, March 23rd, 2025
Third Sunday of Lent**

Praise Medley: Holy Spirit, Come into Our Lives
Seek Ye First the Kingdom

Greeting and Announcements

Introit: Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary

Call to Worship:

We come, because we seek our God.

**Every morning, every day, every evening,
every moment, God is with us.**

We come, because we hunger for Christ.

**Jesus will feed us with hope, will replace
our emptiness with grace.**

We come, because we thirst for the Spirit.

**Who fills our yearning for peace,
who ends the drought of justice.**

Prayer of Approach: (unison)

God of steadfast love, you offer us a world where thirst is quenched, the hungry are fed and strangers become family. There we may offer hope to those in despair, bring light into every shadow, and offer peace to angry hearts. Holy One, continue to nurture us with your steadfast grace, even as we worship this day.

Hymn: Come, We That Love **VU 714**

A Time for All People: Fruits of the Spirit - Peace

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

The thirsty come, and we offer lead-filled water; the hungry come, and we offer a single can from our overflowing pantries; the lonely come, and we cling to our cliques; the

broken come, and we hand them an aspirin; the needy come, but we have wasted everything on stuff we do not need.

Have mercy on us, and pour your heart into our grace-parched souls. As you have been with us in every moment, may we be with those around us. May we listen to their needs and hearts, even as you lean down to listen to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen. (Silent reflection)

Assurance of Pardon:

In every moment, God seeks what is best for us, continually offering us peace, hope, and forgiveness.

We will bless God in every moment, rejoicing with the One who fills us with steadfast love. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

Hymn: As the Deer

Offertory Hymn: Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow
VU 541

Offertory Prayer: (unison)

Loving God, we offer our gifts to you, so the parched throats might be soothed by your grace, the hungry feed on your bounty, and the stranger welcomed as family who have been away for too long. This we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Hebrew Scriptures: Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 63 **on page 781 of VU R2**

Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Gospel Lesson: Luke 13:1-9

Hymn: O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee **VU 560**

Meditation

Ministry of Music

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response: Spirit of the Living God **VU 376**

Hymn: I'll Fly Away

Commission and Benediction:

God sends us out to empty our gifts for others.

Letting us charge whatever we need to grace's account.

Jesus sends us out to find those who are thirsty and hungry.

Giving us the water for parched children, filling our arms with bags of groceries for the hungry.

The Spirit sends us out to search for those who long for community.

Taking us by the hand when we grow weary, so we might continue to welcome the stranger.