

First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge
Sunday, March 30th, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Praise Medley: Softly and Tenderly
My Lighthouse

Greeting and Announcements

Introit: I Come To the Cross

Call to Worship:

Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

**For once we were lost and felt so far away;
now we have been found and welcomed home.**

Know that God's love is lavished upon you forever.

We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!

Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.

Prayer of Approach: (unison)

Let this be the welcoming place, the place of return. Let it be built by a love that bends towards those who return here. For it is a love that has been waiting like a candle in the window, ever lighting the way back and never willing to let go the hope that each child will return home.

Let it be the place where the only appropriate response to love that has come to the end of its longing, is to kill the fatted calf, feast and prepare the party, for that which has been lost has returned to be among us once more. Amen

Hymn: Worship the Lord **VU 401**

A Time for All People

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

On this very day, Waiting God, we admit we turn away so we might avoid you. You offer us that kingdom of joy and wonder, yet we would hide in places where temptation

waits. You invite us to feast on your grace and peace, but we stubbornly refuse, because you also welcome those we call 'outsiders'. We are quick to see all the mistakes that those around us make, but hope you will ignore our foolish choices.

Before we come to our senses, we find you running towards us, sweeping us up in your arms, tears of grace mingling with our cries of confession, washing away our sinful ways to restore us to new life.

In Jesus our Christ, we find no limitations on your grace, no reservations about your love, but a feast that overflows with wonder, a place we can finally call home. (Silent reflection)

Assurance of Pardon:

God rolls away everything that stands in our way - our past, our sin, our pain, our hesitation, and reshapes us into new people living in the new creation. What wonderful grace. We are forgiven!

Broken, we are made whole; lost, we are brought home; empty, we are filled with songs of gladness. We rejoice and give thanks to God who has graced us with mercy. Amen.

Hymn: My Life Flows On

Offertory Hymn: For the Gift of Creation **VU 538**

Offertory Prayer: (unison)

May we not be like the older brother, grumbling and resentful of your generosity. Rather, with joy and hope, we offer our gifts that others might be swept up in your loving and gracious arms. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Hebrew Scriptures: Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32 **on page 759 of VU**

Epistle Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Gospel Lesson: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Meditation

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response: When Two or Three Are Gathered

Hymn: Draw the Circle Wide

Commission and Benediction:

God sends us forth, to be reconcilers of the broken and oppressed. Jesus, our Brother, sends us to welcome everyone.

We will embrace the prodigals with joy, we will make a feast for all of God's people.

The Spirit sends us with arms full of healing.

We will go to bring hope to all we meet.