

**First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge
Sunday, March 9th, 2025**

Praise Medley: Children of the Light
Wings of an Eagle

Greeting and Announcements

Introit: Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands **VU 570 vs 2**

Call to Worship:

Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.

In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt, and temptation.

As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.

Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.

Prayer of Approach: (unison)

Hope is the inheritance you gift to us, God our trust, so we might discover that when we are tempted we may call out to you for help; that even when we stumble during our journey, we are carried in your hands.

Grace is the inheritance you share with us, Brother of strangers, not that we might hoard it for ourselves and loved ones only, but we would be willing to be generous to all we meet, making no distinction when it comes to our sisters and brothers.

Peace is the inheritance we receive from you, Spirit of salvation, not that we might settle in and claim it only for a special few, but that we might turn it into that place of refuge for all, where mercy and hope flow into each

person's life.

All that we have is an inheritance from you, Holy One, blessings to be shared with all, even as we worship you today. Amen.

Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty **VU 220**

A Time for All People

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

We meet you here, God of faithfulness, our hands and lives full of all our foolish ways. We treat Your people as strangers who walk among us with fear and doubt. We afflict our anger on those who care about us the most. We impose hard words on those who need to hear hope and grace in their lives.

So now we bring our hearts to you, Generous God, setting them down before you in hopes that you will mend them. As you hear our faltering words, we pray you would answer us with your forgiving love. And as you forgive us, may we go forth to be generous with our lives towards others, even as the one who is Lord of all, Jesus Christ, has been so generous to us. (Silent reflection)

Assurance of Pardon:

As you have confessed, do you so believe? The good news is that there is nothing we do that can conquer us, for we are sheltered in God's gracious mercy and hope.

This is the truth we believe. The Word is in our hearts, and on our lips, as we give thanks to God who is our shelter and our live. Amen.

Hymn: Forty Days and Forty Nights **VU 114 vs 1,2,4,5**

Offertory Hymn: In Gratitude and Humble Trust **VU 544**

Offertory Prayer: (unison)

From a laptop and a daycare centre, from retirement and teaching, from construction work and nursing, from all the places where we derive a living, we offer you our gifts, God of grace, so they might become part of all the fruits of hope and of healing, of peace and patience, which you give to others throughout the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Hebrew Scriptures: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91 **on page 808 of VU** (verses sung by Ronalda)

Epistle Lesson: Romans 10:8b-13

Gospel Lesson: Luke 4:1-13

Hymn: She Comes Sailing on the Wind **VU 380**

Meditation

Ministry of Music

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response: Holy Sacred Spirit

Hymn: We Have This Ministry **VU 510**

Commission and Benediction:

Now let us go from this place of haven God has given to us.

**Led by the Spirit, we will go to be with those
who are filled with fears, with hopes.**

Now let us go into the world, living out God's reality
that there is no distinction between people.

**Led by the Spirit, let us go to serve our sisters
and brothers who are our true family.**