



CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH

Minister: Rev. Dr. Steven J. Chambers

Music Director: David Cameron

Moderator: Joyce Holden

Minister Emeritus: Rev. Dr. C. Wayne Hilliker

March 2, 2008

4th Sunday in Lent

The Season of Lent, and its royal purple shades of colour, is more than a time of 'bad news' before the 'good news' of Easter. It is a time of penitence, confession and reflection. It is also a time of grace, focusing on God's creative and re-creative power. It can be a time of encouragement and growth in faithful discipleship.

** Congregation please stand if you are able.

Our ushers have LARGE PRINT bulletins and hearing assist equipment.

Gathering of the People

PRELUDE: *Tristamente* (Suite du 2me ton) Denis Bédard

** PROCESSIONAL HYMN 79 *Arise, Your Light Has Come*

** CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In the night, our fear rises up.

All: We fear that which we cannot see.

One: In the silence, danger increases.

All: We fear the silence.

One: God comes to touch our fears.

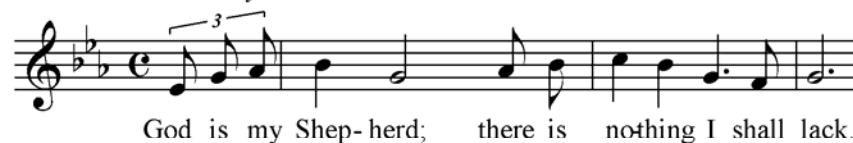
All: To light our way, to speak our names.

One: God comes through the shadows and the silence, inviting us to the way of Christ.

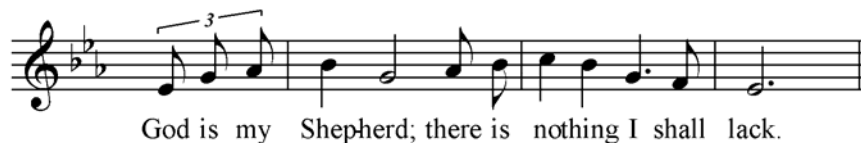
Introit: *Psalm 23:1*

David Cameron

Choir only



SUNG BY ALL



** GATHERING PRAYER

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Following the announcements children
and young people are invited to come forward.*

STORY: *The Tale of Three Trees*

A traditional folktale retold by Angela Elwell Hunt
(Lion Publishing, 1989)

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The first system has a G major chord above the first measure and a C major chord above the last measure. The lyrics are: "I'm gon-na live so God can use me an-y-where— Lord, an-y-time". Below the lyrics, the words "work", "pray", and "sing" are stacked vertically. The second system has chords Em, C, G, C, Em, C, G above the measures. The lyrics are: "I'm gon-na live so God can use me an-y-where,— Lord, an-y-time." Below the lyrics, the words "work", "pray", and "sing" are stacked vertically. Both systems have a bass clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature.

**HYMN

Proclamation of the Word

THE SCRIPTURES

One: Through scripture we meet the Living God.

**Sung by All: Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light unto my path. VU
956**

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

One: Herein is Wisdom.

All: Thanks be to God.

CHORAL HYMN: *Psalm 23* Gaelic melody, arr. David Cameron

He's my shepherd, I'll want nothing, Green the pastures where I lie; I am led to peaceful water, guided on the path nearby. Though I walk through darkest valleys, canyons that are stark and dread, I fear nothing: he is with me, loving hands are on my head. With my foes, he gently feeds me, rids my foolish mind of fear; now my cup is running over, hope and happiness are here! Love and mercy, these unfailing ever goodness follow me; in God's house I'll dwell forever, live with him eternally. (Psalm 23, paraphrase by John Ross Mattheson)

The Gospel: John 9:1-41

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

****HYMN 748** *God is My Shepherd*

SERMON: *Hearing and Seeing*

The Response of the People

MOTET:

Harold Darke

O gladsome light, O grace of God the Father's face, Th'eternal splendour wearing: celestial, holy, blest, our Saviour Jesus Christ, joyful in thine appearing. Now, ere day riseth quite, we see the early light, our wonted hymn outpouring: Father of might unknown, thee his incarnate Son, and Holy Spirit adoring. To thee of right belongs all praise of holy songs, O Son of God, lifegiver: thee therefore, O most high, the world doth glorify, and shall exalt for ever. (3rd century, trans. Robert Bridges)

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Eternal Spirit,

Earth Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be.

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by people of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom

sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

Voices United, 1988 Jim Cotter

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC:

Harold Darke

**** SONG OF DEDICATION 540**

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,

with a spirit large and free,

that ourselves and all our living

we may offer faithfully.

****PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

****HYMN 326** *O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing*

****COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

****RESPONSE: AMEN!**

POSTLUDE: *Grand jeu* (*Suite du 2me ton*) Denis Bédard