

KING CITY UNITED CHURCH

*A Vibrant, Caring, Christian Family
Proclaiming the Good News of God's Love
Through Jesus Christ!*

March 6, 2022

First Sunday of Lent

Sacrament of Holy Communion

(* Please rise as you are able)**

(Words in **Bold** said by all)

... WITH OPEN DOORS ...

Prelude: "Blessed Assurance" (Part 1)

J. Knapp

Welcome, Life & Work with King City UC

The Lighting of the Worship Candle

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; those who follow me will not walk in darkness." This candle reminds us of the presence of Christ in our midst.

Thanks be to God.

Call to Worship

Lent calls us to a special journey.

We are travelers seeking to deepen our relationships with God.

Lent calls us to the edges and borders of our existence.

We are people gathered to learn more about God.

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us worship the God of love.

*****Hymn: "O Love, How Deep" 348 VU (odd verses 1, 3, 5, 7)**

**1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high!
It fills the heart with ecstasy,
that God, in Jesus Christ, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake.**

**3 For us he was baptized, and bore
a holy fast, and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharply knew;
for us the tempter overthrew.**

**5 For us to wicked foes betrayed,
scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us at length gave up his breath.**

**7 To God whose boundless love has won
salvation for us through the Son,
to God all praise and glory be
both now and through eternity.**

Opening Prayer

Your love, O God, is deep and broad and high and far and near and rich and wonderful. You provide us a safe place, refuge and shelter. You protect us at all times, night and day, in darkness and at noonday. You defend us from every manner of difficulty or danger. You lead us on our journey, watch over us with compassion and guide us with encouragement and direction. There is no place or time or circumstance that is beyond your ability to protect us. In all our ways you guard us, and so, with thanksgiving we offer you our worship and our praise, and we confess to you our weakness and sin.

Along the way, from mountaintop heights of success and satisfaction or in wild places of defeat, disappointment and despair, we are tempted.

Forgive, O God, the temptations we have not resisted.

Knowing what is true, the lie still seduces with loopholes of self-justification. Knowing what is right, the lure of self-interest still taunts. Knowing what is good, the longing for self-gratification still pulls.

Forgive, O God, the temptations we cannot resist.

Like wind patterns in the sand, our lives are marked by the symmetry of effect following cause: the temptations of greed create poverty; the temptation to serve self creates injustice; the temptations of pride create an absence of God.

Forgive, O God, the temptations we choose not to resist.

(Private prayers in silence)

In the wilderness, Jesus learned about our temptations. His promise of pardon is both caring and knowing.

God forgives! Thanks be to God. Amen.

Now let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us to pray by saying,

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy
Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day, our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as**

we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Words of Grace (based on Psalm 91)

Hear the promise of God:

"Because you cling to me in love, I will deliver you.

I will protect you, because you know my name.

When you call to me, I will answer you.

I will be with you in trouble.

I will rescue you and honour you."

This is God's promise to you fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God.
Amen.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Response: "Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary" 18 MV

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,

pure and holy tried and true;

with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

***** Affirmation of Faith: A New Creed**

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

... WITH OPEN MINDS ...

*****Hymn: "I Love to Tell the Story" 343 VU**

- 1 I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.
I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

- 2 I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems
than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word. R**

- 3 I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. R**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Luke 4: 1-13 (page 61 NT)

Response: "Spirit of Life" 381 VU

**Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.**

Ministry of Music

Sermon "Temptations of the Worst Kind" The Rev. Bruce J. Roffey

Music for Silent Reflection

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

*****Offertory Hymn: "We Give Thee But Thine Own" 543 VU, v.1**

**We give thee but thine own
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O God, from thee.**

... WITH FAITH OPEN TO THE WEEK AHEAD ...

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayers

Breaking the Bread and Filling the Cup

Sharing of the Bread and Wine

Pastoral Prayers of the People

*****Hymn: "Jesus, Tempted in the Desert"**

VU 115

- 1 Jesus, tempted in the desert,
lonely, hungry, filled with dread:
'Use your power,' the tempter tells him;
'turn these barren rocks to bread!'
'Not alone by bread,' he answers,
'can the human heart be filled.
Only by the Word that calls us
is our deepest hunger stilled!'**
- 2 Jesus, tempted at the temple,
high above its ancient wall:
'Throw yourself from lofty turret;
angels wait to break your fall!'
Jesus shuns such empty marvels,
feats that fickle crowds request:
'God, whose grace protects, preserves us,
we must never vainly test.'**
- 3 Jesus, tempted on the mountain
by the lure of vast domain:
'Fall before me! Be my servant!
Glory, fame, you're sure to gain!'
Jesus sees the dazzling vision,**

**turns his eyes another way:
'God alone deserves our homage!
God alone will I obey!'**

**4 When we face temptation's power,
lonely, struggling, filled with dread,
Christ, who knew the tempter's hour,
come and be our living bread.
By your grace, protect, preserve us
lest we fall, your trust betray.
Yours, above all other voices,
be the Word we hear, obey.**

*****Commissioning / Benediction**

Giving and Sustaining God: we experience your compelling call to undertake this Lenten journey.

We hear your voice inviting us into the wilderness where our journey begins; we trust in your presence with us on the way. Guide and support us through the wilderness. Inspire us to follow Christ in worship, and in witness; in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

May the blessing of God give us strength for the journey; may the Spirit of wisdom give us vision for the road; may the love of Christ make us caring companions; as together we go forth in the Lenten time.

Amen.

*****Choral Prayer: "Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery"
121 VU (verse for 1st Sunday of Lent)**

**From the dawning of Creation,
you have loved us as your own;
stay with us through all temptation,
make us turn to you alone,
make us turn to you alone.**

*****Extinguishing of the Christ Candle**

Christ has been with us sharing the light of life. He says to us, "You are the light of the world. Let your light shine."

We go forth taking with us the light of Christ in our hearts, and we promise to let it shine in the world through our good works, to the glory of God. Amen.

Postlude: "Blessed Assurance" (Part 2)

J. Knapp

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship services – Starting today, all three churches of York United Ministries will return to regular in-person worship services. New Hope will worship at 9:30 am, King City at 10:00 am and York Pines at 11:00 am. The worship schedule is subject to change.

Worship Schedule for King City United Church

Date	March 13 th	March 20 th	March 27 th	April 3 rd
Preacher	Rev. Andrew Lee	Rev. Bruce Roffey	Rev. Andrew Lee	Rev. Bruce Roffey
Music Director	Rosemary Karunaratne	Rosemary Karunaratne	Rosemary Karunaratne	Rosemary Karunaratne
Church Year	Second Sunday in Lent	Third Sunday in Lent	Fourth Sunday in Lent	Fifth Sunday in Lent
Liturgical Colour	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple

YUM Calendar

March 6th at 2:00 p.m. New Hope's AGM

March 8th at 2:00 p.m. York Pines' Council Meeting

March 15th at 7:30 p.m. New Hope's Council Meeting

March 22nd at 7:30 p.m. Oversight Team Meeting

Choir Practice – We will practice each Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

“Writing Green, Living Lent” - Spiritual Exercises in Lent

In Lent, we will have spiritual exercises of writing down selected Bible verses and taking actions for the creation, celebrating God's mystery and love in creation. This spiritual exercise is designed to respond to the current ecological crisis and to practice the way Christians react. It includes helpful scientific facts and statistics. Please find the details in the separate sheets at the end of this bulletin. At the end of Lent, please hand in your sheets to celebrate your participation.

Offering - Thank you for sending your offerings to the church. Your offerings support the ministry of the church and have been much appreciated. Please mail a cheque to your church directly, or make an e-transfer to the church email address.

In-Person Pastoral Counselling

Rev. Lee offers pastoral counseling. Please contact Rev. Lee (leeky3@mcmaster.ca) to make an appointment.

"Praise With Us!"

Let's sing together! Please watch our YouTube channel. Our stories and songs will be uploaded continually. If you want to share your stories or songs, please contact Rev. Lee (leeky3@mcmaster.ca). While being invited, Rev. Lee offers a sing-a-long time. This week of "PRAISE WITH US" #4, Rev. Andrew invites us to sing "We Sing of Your Glory" MV58: <https://youtu.be/WF8Ipe7uMgE>

York Pines Book Club – *Change in meeting day*

The next Book Club meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 23, 2022 at 7 p.m.** They will be discussing the book "**Butterfly Kills**" by Brenda Chapman. The facilitator for this meeting will be Linda Davies. If you are interested in joining the Book Club contact York Pines United Church by sending an email to yorkpinesuc@gmail.com or calling 905-727-8118.

"End the War Now": Korean Peace Appeal

UCC is officially hosting the Ten Thousand Signature Campaign for the Korean Peace Appeal. The Korean War began in 1950. While open clashes ceased in 1953 with the signing of an armistice, a peace treaty has not yet been established and **the war is not over**. For more than 70 years the Korean people have endured a constant state of hostility and war, which has solidified the division of the peninsula.

The Korea Peace Appeal is a global campaign that seeks to collect 100 million signatures by 2023, the 70th anniversary of the armistice. The National Council of Churches in Korea has challenged The United Church of Canada to add Ten Thousand Signatures by the summer of 2022.

Join with Korean partners and all who seek peace on the Korean Peninsula, the region, and the world. In adding your signature to the petition, you are saying:

- End the Korean War and establish a peace agreement.
- Create a Korean Peninsula and a world free from nuclear weapons and nuclear threat.
- Resolve the conflict with dialogue and cooperation instead of sanctions and pressure.
- Break from the vicious cycle of the arms race and invest in human security and environmental sustainability.

Please visit the URL for the sign the petition:

<https://united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/korea-peace-appeal>

Minute for Mission

March 8 is International Women's Day, a day that is all about celebrating women's achievements and calling out inequality. Geeta's story is one example of why marking the day is so important.

When Geeta's husband died she not only lost her life partner but also her home. Because she was no longer married her in-laws wouldn't allow her to stay in their multi-generational residence.

Geeta is just one of an estimated 72 million women in India who are not married—nearly double the entire population of Canada. In India, most women are expected to marry and then live with their husband and his family. Unmarried women, even those who are widowed, are often seen as dishonourable. Like Geeta, they may suffer abuse.

Fortunately, Geeta was able to flee to her parents' home with her two younger children, but many parents will not allow their newly single daughters to return.

While Geeta and her younger children stayed with her parents, her in-laws stole her jewellery, changed the locks, and kept her two older children from her. That's when she turned to Mission & Service partner Astha Sansthan's Association of Strong Women Alone (ASWA) for help.

ASWA supports thousands of single women from low-income backgrounds in Rajasthan to defend their rights. The organization has also shared their advocacy methods and experiences with other groups across India.

Thanks to ASWA's help, Geeta's in-laws ultimately had to give back her jewellery, unlock her home, and return her older children to her care.

Today, Geeta is living peacefully with her children in her part of the house.

Your generous support provides life-saving advocacy. It is one way your gifts address crushing inequality and help build a better world for all. Thank you!

Writing Green, Living Lent

- Living Out the Words for Creating a Climate of Change

No.	Date	Writing Words & Reflection	Taking 6 Actions	Self-check (✓)
1	March 2	Genesis 1:1	Action #1	
2	3	John 1:3	Could you give up single use plastics for Lent? → https://livinglent.org/what-could-i-do/single-use-plastics/	
3	4	Genesis 1:10		
4	5	Colossians 1:16-17		
5	7	Psalms 102:25-26		
6	8	Nehemiah 9:6		
7	9	Jeremiah 2:7		

Article for Action #1

“Could you give up single use plastics for Lent?”

We know plastic is incredibly useful – but like a bad guest it overstays its welcome. In particular, plastic film and thin plastic, such as low-density polyethylene (LDPE), that contains or covers many of the products we consume, is particularly disastrous for the environment – and us directly – due to its energy-intensive reliance on non-renewable raw materials and the difficulty in recycling these forms of plastic.



Each year billions of plastics are thrown away, most of which are used for only a short amount of time. More than half a billion plastic straws are used every day globally. Almost 2 million plastic bags are used every minute, and the amount of bubble wrap produced annually could wrap around the equator ten times!

Plastic packaging is the biggest producer of plastic waste globally. Incinerating plastic releases CO₂, and other toxic chemicals, into the environment, so is not a suitable alternative to get rid of our mass

plastic waste. Instead, our plastic ends up in landfills, where on average a plastic bottle takes 450 years to biodegrade.

Alternative polymer bags, which are more eco-friendly, are being developed, but are currently more expensive to produce and are not widely used in our shops. As a result, despite many of us knowing the dangers of single-use plastic film and bags, almost 12.7 million tonnes of plastic (including half a million tonnes of plastic bags) is finding its way into the world's oceans every year. It is predicted that by 2050 the amount of plastic found in the world's oceans will outweigh the our fish.



This is having devastating effects on the health of humans and our planet. When plastics deteriorate, they release hazardous chemicals. These poison our ecosystem, entering the food chain in the water and seafood which people all over the world consume, making their way into

the human bloodstream. This has harmful effects on human health and has been associated with cancer, infertility, an impaired immune system and other diseases.

It is not only poisoning the human body, but also the earth's atmosphere, fuelling climate change. If we continue using plastics at our current rate, by 2050 plastic will be responsible for up to 13% of the total 'carbon budget'. This is the equivalent of 615 coal-fired power plants. This threatens the ability of us as a global community keeping the earth's temperature rise below 1.5°C.

So, what can I do?

By taking up the challenge to avoid using single-use plastics during Lent, you will be committing to only buying products which are not packaged with plastic film or bags. Sounds simple? Unfortunately, this is going to be quite a challenge. It may be impossible to buy your usual shopping items without

them being surrounded by plastic – so it may call for drastic action: a significant change in your shopping routine.

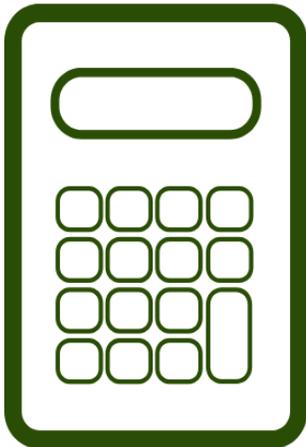
Here are some things you might want to think about to help you on your plastic free journey:

- **Groceries**—There are many ways to make your grocery shop more eco-friendly. Why not switch to buying loose fruit and vegetables rather than pre-packaged? And why not try buying reusable sandwich bags?
- **Cut out the plastic bags**—Keep a reusable bag in your bag, car or bike basket at all times and chances are you'll find opportunities to use
- **Bottled/take-away drinks**—Take a travel mug or refill your water bottle and always refuse a disposable cup.
- **Have an eco-shower**— You could use soap instead of shower gel to avoid throwing away an excessive amount of plastic bottles. And why not and a shampoo bar for a plastic free hair wash?
- **Do a plastic audit of your home** – where can you find single-use plastics and can you research a 'greener' alternative?

This might mean having to give up things which simply can't be changed. We might have to let go of our favourite foods, drinks or magazines (they come in plastic wrap too!) in order to make a stand for the climate.

What difference will this really make?

Forty days of no single-use plastic waste might feel like it will have an imperceptible benefit to the environment in the face of the huge challenge, but it will help us to realize that it is possible to reduce our plastic consumption throughout the year. The average household produces a tone of waste each year, and every year this increases by 3%.



The amount plastic you will save varies by each individual. You can calculate your plastic consumption on this website.

[plastic calculator](#): See how much you could save!

This commitment is about making a noise too. Retail giants do take notice of their consumers' spending habits, such that purchasing power, as well as consistent calls for reform of packaging practices will make a huge difference.

In time, plastic waste will have a reduced impact on wildlife (entrapment and ingestion) and reduction in the use of fossil fuels and natural gas as a source material will lessen our carbon footprint, helping us to reach our global goals to cap climate change.

Writing Green, Living Lent

- Living Out the Words for Creating a Climate of Change

No.	Date	Writing Words & Reflection	Taking 6 Actions	Self-check (✓)
8	10	Isaiah 43:20-21	Action #2	
9	11	Mark 4:19	Could you try to have one vegetable meal a day during Lent? → https://livinglent.org/what-could-i-do/meat/	
10	12	Job 37:14-18		
11	14	Genesis 1:22		
12	15	Job 12:7-10		
13	16	Job 37:3-5		
14	17	Isaiah 11:9		

Writing Green, Living Lent

- Living Out the Words for Creating a Climate of Change

No.	Date	Writing Words & Reflection	Taking 6 Actions	Self-check (✓)
15	18	Job 37:13-14	Action #3 Could you buy nothing new - except for groceries - for the whole of Lent? → https://livinglent.org/what-could-i-do/nothing-new/	
16	19	Job 37:15-16		
17	21	Matthew 6:26		
18	22	Leviticus 26:19-20		
19	23	Romans 1:19-20		
20	24	Job 38:2-4		
21	25	Job 38:16-18		

Writing Green, Living Lent

- Living Out the Words for Creating a Climate of Change

No.	Date	Writing Words & Reflection	Taking 6 Actions	Self-check (✓)
22	26	Genesis 1:26	Action #4 Could you reduce your electricity use by 10% during Lent? → https://livinglent.org/what-could-i-do/energy-use/	
23	28	Job 38:19-21		
24	29	Leviticus 25:23-24		
25	30	Psalms 95:3-5		
26	31	Ezekiel 34:2-4		
27	April 1	Revelation 8:7		
28	2	Isaiah 24:4-6		

Writing Green, Living Lent

- Living Out the Words for Creating a Climate of Change

No.	Date	Writing Words & Reflection	Taking 6 Actions	Self-check (✓)
29	4	Revelation 16:8-9	Action #5 Could you commit to living locally this Lent? → https://livinglent.org/what-could-i-do/local-living/	
30	5	Jeremiah 2:7		
31	6	Revelation 16:21		
32	7	Revelation 11:18		
33	8	Psalm 148:7-8		
34	9	Genesis 2:15		
35	11	Psalm 148:3-5		

Writing Green, Living Lent

- Living Out the Words for Creating a Climate of Change

No.	Date	Writing Words & Reflection	Taking 6 Actions	Self-check (✓)
36	12	Psalms 104:24	Action #6	
37	13	Psalm 104:27-28	Could you commit to finding alternative modes of transport or reduce travel this Lent? → https://livinglent.org/what-could-i-do/transport/	
38	14	Genesis 9:11-15		
39	15	Romans 8:19-22		
40	16	Colossians 1:19-20		

Congratulations, my friend!

You completed it. Please bring your sheets stapled to church office with your name on the first page. We will celebrate the numbers of the participants.