



Eastminster United Church
March 15, 2015
Fourth Sunday of Lent

*Indicates please stand in body or in spirit

*"After three unshriven decades, what I discovered, in rehearsing my failures as a human being, was not how many sins I had committed, but how small they were. Bless me, father, for I have lived my life in lowercase."
-Richard Rodriguez*

We Gather as God's People

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Lee Perry

*Opening Hymn MV#20 God of Still Waiting

Lighting Lenten Candles

We light a candle for each of the Sundays in Lent. At the end of the service we extinguish one candle remembering the things we give up or let go of on our Lenten journey.

Opening Prayer

Patient God, you call, but we don't listen, you direct, and we go another way, you challenge and we sulk. Foolish God, we crave power, and you come in weakness, we look to authority, and you give love, we seek safety, and you lead us to the cross. Compassionate God, forgive us.

Silent prayer

Amen

The Peace Shared

The children are invited to Church School.

We Share in Word and Song

Greek Scripture

Luke 15:11-32

Susan Wakefield

One:

The Word of Hope.

All:

Thanks be to God.

Meditation

Forgive Us Our Debts

Rev. Sarah Miller

When I look into your eyes
It's like watching the night sky
Or a beautiful sunrise
Well, there's so much they hold
And just like them old stars
I see that you've come so far
To be right where you are
How old is your soul?

I won't give up on us
Even if the skies get rough
I'm giving you all my love
I'm still looking up

And when you're needing your space
To do some navigating
I'll be here patiently waiting
To see what you find

'Cause even the stars they burn
Some even fall to the earth
We've got a lot to learn
God knows we're worth it
No, I won't give up

I don't wanna be someone who walks away so easily
I'm here to stay and make the difference that I can make
Our differences they do a lot to teach us how to use
The tools and gifts we got, yeah, we got a lot at stake
And in the end, you're still my friend at least we did intend
For us to work we didn't break, we didn't burn
We had to learn how to bend without the world caving in
I had to learn what I've got, and what I'm not, and who I am

We respond with our Thanks and Prayers

Life and Work of the Congregation

Invitation to Offer our Gifts and Ourselves

Offering Hymn 1

Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling *(see back page)*

Please stand in body or in spirit during the last verse for the presentation of the offering.

*Dedication Prayer

We Celebrate Holy Communion

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Norman Tanaka

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift our hearts in prayer.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Sung Responses: MV# 203, 204, 205

Breaking, Pouring, Sharing

All are invited to come forward to receive Communion by dipping the bread in the cup.

Communion Hymns 2 MV#202 Bread for the Journey

This is the Body of Christ

John L. Bell

**This is the body of Christ,
Broken and shared, yet whole;
This cup, as promised by God,
true to his Word, cradles our Lord;
food for the good of the soul.**

Prayer Following Communion

Blessed Creator, we give thanks for these gifts of the Earth that become sacred symbols of oneness and brokenness, life energies and love poured out. By these communal actions, strengthen our faith and our resolve to seek justice. May all we seek be of goodness and compassion. Amen.

We Go Out to Be the People of God

*Closing Hymn VU#271 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (St. 1, 2, 4, 5)

*Blessing & Sending Forth

*Extinguishing of the Lenten Candle

*Sung Benediction 3 God Be With You Jeremiah E. Rankin; arr. William G. Tomer

God _____ be with you, _____ God _____ be with you, _____ God _____ be
with you, _____ until we meet _____ a - gain; _____ God _____ be with you, _____
God _____ be with you, _____ God _____ be with you, _____ until we meet a - gain.

Postlude

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Today

Scripture: Luke 15:11-32 p. 78

Announcements

~ FAIR TRADE COFFEE

If you are interested in buying organic fair trade coffee at a good price please contact Ann McIlwraith at 416-469-371, mcilann@icloud.com or speak to her at coffee hour. Today, after the service she will have some coffee for sale in the narthex. Proceeds go to the accessibility fund.

~ MEN'S GROUP EASTER BREAKFAST!

Yes, once again this year the Men's Group will be cooking up a sumptuous Easter breakfast! Stay tuned for more details.....

~ ADDRESS UPDATES

Please don't forget to let the office know of any changes or additions to your address, email, phone numbers (home/cell) etc. so we can keep the church database current. Please email Sue in the office at eastminster@bellnet.ca with any changes.

~ UPCOMING WORSHIP

For the season of Lent, we will focus on the theme of **Forgiveness and Reconciliation**. Our scriptures and the texts of other Holy Books speak of sin, punishment and forgiveness. We confess our sins, debts or trespasses as we sing or say the Lord's Prayer, but progressive churches often shy away from speaking of sin and forgiveness. Join us for a deeper look at the practice of confession and forgiveness as we journey through Lent together.

March 22 Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 51:1-12

Remember Their Sins No More

Holy Week & Easter Services:

~ **Sun. March 29 at 10:15am: PALM SUNDAY BICYCLE PARADE, SERVICE AT 10:30AM**

~ **Thurs. April 2 at 7pm: MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE OF HAND AND FOOT WASHING**

This is being held at Glen Rhodes United Church, 1470 Gerrard St. E, with the Danforth Multifaith Community.

~ **Fri. April 3 at 10am: DANFORTH ECUMENICAL GOOD FRIDAY WALK**

The walk begins at Holy Name Catholic Church (71 Gough Ave) and continues on to 4 other churches.

~ **Sun. April 5 at 10:30am: EASTER!**

Rev. Sarah Miller preaching "The Easter Paradox: Loss, Hope and Resurrection"

~ OUT OF THE COLD: NEW FACEBOOK PAGE!

Out of the Cold is a program which strives to respond, in a meaningful way, to the needs of the most abandoned of our city's poor and homeless people. These needs include the basic physical needs of shelter and food, and the deeply human needs of compassion, dignity and feelings of self-worth. Please like our Facebook page for news on the homeless, updates on volunteer shifts, and connect with fellow volunteers. Look for volunteer interviews, donation requests, and news of community events. Like us @ Eastminster UC Out of the Cold

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Eastminster-UC-Out-of-the-Cold/1593106464253990>

Upcoming Events

~ **Wed. March 17 at 10.40am: SERVICE AT CHESTER VILLAGE**

~ **Wed. March 18 at 7pm: COINS & A LEAP OF ECONOMIC FAITH IN THE TIME OF JESUS**

A brief seminar on ancient coins with Enrico de Dominicis. The first in a speaker series on a variety of topics. If you would like to give a brief seminar and Q&A on a topic close to your heart, please speak to Cathy Forrest or Marlene Sagada.

~ **Fri. March 27 at 7 pm: EUC READS! - BOOK CLUB**

Book: **THE STONE ANGEL** by **Margaret Laurence** (Borrow from Library)

New members welcome! Come out for a lively discussion by the fire, followed by the 9pm Social Wine & Cheese. Location: At the home of Neil Riach & Carolyn Curren (1 block from EUC). For more info contact: John Brown at 416-463-0844 or Carolyn Curren at 416-465-6174 or email: info@neilandcarolyn.com

Out in the Community

~ **March 16-20: MARCH BREAK**

The City of Toronto has plenty of free or low-cost activities to enjoy. Learn more about drop-in programs, activities and camps on the City's website at:

<http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=0be450aca5574410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD>

~ **Wed. March 18, 25 from 7:30-9:00pm: THE JESUIT GUIDE TO ALMOST EVERYTHING:**

A Spirituality for Real Life. 5 Toronto Anglican Churches are hosting a discussion series based on this New York Times bestseller. Discussions explore the four elements of Ignatian spirituality: Finding God in all things, becoming a contemplative in action, looking at the world in an incarnational way, and seeking freedom and detachment. Dates for this 5 week series are: **March 18** - St. Saviour, 43 Kimberley Avenue/**March 25** - St. David and St. Andrew, 49 Donlands Avenue

~ **Wed. March 18, 25 from 7.15-8.45pm: THE LENTEN DINNER AND DISCUSSION GROUP 2015**

You are invited to a Lenten Dinner and Discussion Group at Cosburn United Church, 1108 Greenwood Avenue, on the following evenings starting with a potluck supper a 6:30 pm followed by discussion from 7:15 to 8:45 pm: **March 18** - Covenant Relationships/ **March 25** - Introduction to the Music of Taize. For more info, please contact Rev. Linda Petrides, Minister at Cosburn United Church (416) 421-5711.

~ **Sat. March 21 from 11:30 -3:30pm: MISSING & MURDERED WOMEN & GIRLS: THE CONTINUING**

TRAGEDY. Lunch, Reports from Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women Roundtable, Small-group Discussion and Strategy Development, Drumming and Song, hosted by Church of the Redeemer Aboriginal Issues Working Group at 162 Bloor Street W. Register at www.theredeemer.ca

~ **Sun. March 22: NEWCHOIR PRESENTS: WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS!**

Join our very own **Scott Pietrangelo** and Toronto's first rock choir Newchoir on Sunday, March 22 at 7.30pm at The Metropolitan United Church, 56 Queen St. East as they work to raise funds for their trip to Carnegie Hall! (see poster at the end of eblast) "Like" Newchoir on Facebook to stay up to date on info or visit www.newchoir.ca or speak to Scott.

~ **Sun. March 22 from noon - 1:15pm: LENTEN STUDY AT GLEN RHODES UNITED: "UNSETTLING GOODS,"** the United Church study of Israeli factories erected on illegally occupied territories of Palestine, and how Canadians might respond. March 22 we will be joined by George Bartlett of Bloor Street UC, recently returned from a fact-finding tour of Israel & Palestine. Leader: Rev. Robin Wardlaw. 1470

Gerrard, 1 block west of Coxwell. Use Rhodes Ave. door (with ramp) to access Barbara Christie Room. Street parking & Green P lot immediately south of Gerrard between Rhodes & Craven. 416-465-3755.

~ Fri. March 27: PIZZA WITH PURPOSE

Youth event age 12 and up at Beach United Church. The pizzas go to a lunch program for people who don't generally get homemade gourmet pizzas so you will be providing them with a treat. And we get to eat them that night! Contact Doug at: barcikblackburn@yahoo.ca or 416 662 0460.

~ Fri. March 27 at 7pm: 22 ANNUAL VARIETY SHOW

Presteign-Woodbine United has rescheduled their 22 Annual Variety Show to March 27 at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$7/person or \$20/family of four. Audition nights are March 22 and 24 at 6:30 pm for those who wish to showcase their talents. For more details please contact: Jane Hawkins & Tracy Guercio at presteignwoodbineunitedchu@bellnet.ca or 416 755 8352

~ COURAGE AND RENEWAL

Five Oaks. Register by March 30. A very promising series of five 3-day retreats over a one year period based on the work of Parker J Palmer. "Participants seeking personal and professional renewal will expand their capacity to listen and be present, improve their ability to build trustworthy relationships, and find the courage to live authentically" Info at: <http://bit.ly/1BapYDg>

~ Fri. April 3 at 7.30pm: JOSEF HAYDN'S – LORD NELSON MASS

Members of the Toronto Beach Chorale warmly welcome you to enjoy *Josef Haydn's –Lord Nelson Mass* with professional orchestra and guest soloists at Kingston Rd. United Church, 975 Kingston Rd. General Admission: \$20/\$25 at door, Youth (7-18) \$10/\$12 at door Children under 7 free. Info at www.torontobeachchorale.com

~ GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO is seeking input from Ontarians regarding the direction of their climate change policy. The government has released a discussion paper and will be gathering comment through in-person consultations and online feedback. This is a prime opportunity to share the results of your vestry and to provide your own additional input in this important process. The discussion document and information on ways to provide feedback can be found on the *Government of Ontario website*

Weekly Events

Mondays:	1:00pm	Prayer Shawl Knitters - meet in Sarah's Office
Thursdays:	6:00 - 6:45pm	Children's Choir - meet in the Parlour
	7:30 - 9.30pm	Adult Choir - meet in the Sanctuary

Our Staff

Rev. Sarah Miller	sarah.bmiller@bellnet.ca	Office: 416-463-2179 ex. 100	Cell: 416-209-1181
Sue Swann , Church Administrator	eastminster@bellnet.ca		416-463-2179 ex. 103
Gerald Gordon , Property Manager	property.manager@bellnet.ca		416-463-2179 ex. 104
Hilary Donaldson , Pastoral Musician	music.eastminster@bellnet.ca		
Scott Pietrangelo , Music Leader			

Musicians

Michelle Suzanne, *soprano soloist*

Andrew Hodwitz, *bass soloist*

Jeff Schissler, *tenor soloist*

Joy Klopp, *alto soloist*

Custodians

Robert Covert

Jessica Aguiar

Alison LeGrow

Joseph Telford

Joshua Somers

TORONTO'S FIRST ROCK CHOIR
NEWCHOIR PRESENTS:

We are going to Carnegie Hall...

**...WITH A LITTLE HELP
FROM OUR FRIENDS!**

TRY YOUR
LUCK IN OUR
50/50 DRAW!

Help send us to Carnegie Hall in style! Featuring our own special ensembles and an exclusive preview of the amazing a cappella numbers we will be performing in NYC!

SUNDAY, MAR 22 7:30 PM

Pay what you can (Suggested donation \$10)
@The Metropolitan United Church
56 Queen St. East, Toronto

FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.NEWCHOIR.CA
NEWCHOIR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: SCOTT PIETRANGELO


new choir

Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the door - step he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have wand - ered, his mer - cy is stead - fast,

Refrain

watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 mer - cy for you and for me. "Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O child - ren, come home!"