



Eastminster United Church

February 14, 2016

First Sunday of Lent

Communion

**Indicates please stand in body or in spirit*

"My life depends on ignoring all touted distinctions between the secular and the sacred, the physical and the spiritual, the body and the soul. What is saving my life now is becoming more fully human, trusting that there is no way to God apart from real life in the real world." - Barbara Brown Taylor

We Gather as God's People

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Susan Bower

**Opening Hymn* VU#108 Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights

Opening Prayer

Holy God, you are the source of all comfort. You teach us how to forgive our neighbour and how to forgive ourselves. Guide us with your calm and still voice as we tread through the wilderness, not knowing when next we will feel the assurance of your nurturing Spirit. Hear our song as we give thanks for your unfathomable, unmerited love. Amen.

**Sharing the Peace*

We Share in Word and Song

Scripture

Luke 7:36-50

Sam Magnan

One:

The word of Hope

All:

Thanks be to God!

Meditation

Ashes and Stardust: An Interrupted Table

Rev. Sarah Miller

Anthem

Dust and Ashes Touch Our Face

Words: Brian Wren
Music: Hal H. Hopson

We Respond with our Thanks and Prayers

Minute for Mission

Pam Cameron

Invitation to Offer our Gifts and Ourselves

Offering Hymn VU#590 A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar

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

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: Kingsfold Communion MV# 203, 204, 205

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

Communion Hymns MV#193 God Bless to Us Our Bread, MV#202 Bread for the Journey

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, multiplied by your love. Amen.

We Go Out to Be the People of God

Life and Work of the Congregation

*Closing Hymn MV#71 When the Wind of Winter Blows

*Blessing & Sending Forth

*Sung Blessing MV#218 May the Love of Our God

*Extinguishing of the Lenten Candle

During Lent we end the service without a postlude.

We invite you to take a moment of silent reflection at the conclusion of the service.

Today

Scripture: Luke 7:36-50 **p. 66**

*** Welcome to Eastminster**

Please sign the guest book in the Narthex and include your email address if you'd like to receive the weekly eblast announcements from Eastminster. Prayer requests can be added to the Prayer book also in the Narthex. Children are invited to Nursery (up to age 4) and Church School following the Children's Time. Please pick up children from Church school and Nursery following the service.

*** Sun. February 28: El Hogar Service Team Commissioning**

Carol and Meleah Bennett will dedicate an "extended" Minute for Mission to El Hogar, a children's home and school in Honduras that they are travelling to in March. They will be seeking Eastminster's support both by participating in the team's commissioning as well as to make donations that will purchase supplies for the schools and the children. Following the church service, the team will be in the Narthex and would love to chat to everyone about both past missions and our upcoming trip.

* **Agnes of God Fundraiser!**

Eastminster is producing the play, *Agnes of God*, as part of our *accessibility project fundraising* efforts. *Agnes of God*, explores fundamental issues of spirituality vs. obsession, miracles vs. magical thinking, and faith vs. doubt. The play will run for several nights: Wednesday, April 27; Friday, April 29; Saturday, April 30; and Sunday, May 1 (the latter date we include two performances, one being a matinee). All performances will be followed by talk-back sessions. Our hope is that this will give audience members an opportunity to engage with the play in a meaningful way. If you are interested in participating, we still need help in the following areas: stage-managing, costume-design, props-handling, lighting tech, set-construction, front-of-house, concession, ushering, etc. If you'd like to get involved please contact Jennifer Thomson as soon as possible. Her email is jenn.thomson@gmail.com

Eastminster Events

* **Worship Services**

We begin our Lenten journey February 14, looking at the stories of gatherings at the table. Awkward tables, family tables, borrowed tables and overturned tables tell stories of relationship and community, or boundary crossing, exclusion and welcome. On February 21 we celebrate Black History month. You don't want to miss a minute of worship at Eastminster!

* **Mon. February 15: Family Day**

* **Tue. February 16 @ 7pm: Council Meeting**

* **Sun. February 21: Potluck lunch following the service**

Bring something to share and plan to stay for lunch! Please speak to Mary Gerritsma or email her at: mgerritsma@sympatico.ca if you can help out.

**** Sunday, March 6 ****

Eastminster's Annual General Meeting

Please mark your calendars and plan to stay after the service for our Annual General Meeting. Childcare provided.



~ **Announcement Deadline for the Eblast & Sunday Bulletin is: Wednesday at 9am.**

Please send to Sue at: eastminster@bellnet.ca Thanks!

From our Friends

* **Youth Workshop - Video Camp**

The United Church of Canada and the Toronto Film Literacy Project are running a workshop for youth and another for young adults. Facilitators will be teaching skills for making films and telling stories. Group 1 (ages 18-25 - Feb 20 & 27) Group 2 (ages 17 & under - Feb 27) Fee \$75. For more info. contact Sheryl at sheryl@fairlawnavenueunited.ca.

* **Sun. February 21 @ 2pm: Intergenerational Blanket Exercise**



The Treaty People group at Holy Trinity is hosting an Intergenerational Blanket Exercise on February 21 at 2pm using the KAIROS process.

The Blanket Exercise is a visceral way to hear and enter into the history of indigenous peoples and settlers in North America. It provides a starting point for doing the work the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has asked of all Canadians.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/516240845223348/516243968556369/>

This event is aimed at those of all ages in faith communities in downtown Toronto.

We invite you to join us for the Blanket exercise at 2pm, to be followed by a circle and discussion. We'll follow with a light supper and networking time starting about 4pm.

We will screen a topical film at 1pm for those who find it easier to arrive earlier. See www.kairosblanketexercise.org to get a better understanding of this experiential workshop.

* **Thursdays from 1.30-3.30: Presteign-Woodbine United Heritage Group**

Presentations every Thursday afternoon from 1:30 – 3:30. A series of fascinating presentations exploring the history of our great city and province touching on Entertainment in Toronto to steamboats through the Prairies and the Dressmakers' Strike of 1931. Only \$7/presentation.

* **Free Income Tax**

Woodgreen Community Services is offering a free Income Tax Clinic for Seniors, Newcomers, Students, Unemployed & Low-Income. For more details call the Tax Line: (416) 645-6000 ext. 1187 or email: taxclinic@woodgreen.org. (also see info flyers posted on our community boards)

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

Refreshments Schedule

The following people have volunteered to do refreshments for the next two Sundays.

Feb. 21: Joy Klopp & Susan Bower

Feb. 28: The Childerhose Family

NOTE: On the day of serving, please bring milk, cream and nut free snacks. After the event, please take all dirty cups to the main kitchen, put it in the dishwasher and start it (please ask if you need help with the dishwasher). Coordinate the opening of the main kitchen with the Sunday custodian on duty.

If you have to change plans or have questions please speak to any of the members of the Community and Discipleship Committee. Thank you so much!

Staff

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Hilary Donaldson, Pastoral Musician music.eastminster@bellnet.ca

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Alex Sinclair, Bookkeeper pmsinc@interlog.com 416-463-2179 ex. 105

Custodians: Alison LeGrow, Jessica Aguiar, Joseph Telford, Joshua Somers, Rodney David

Soloists: Michelle Suzanne - *soprano*, Andrew Hodwitz - *bass*, Jeff Schissler - *tenor*, Joy Klopp – *alto*