



Eastminster United Church

February 21, 2016

Second Sunday of Lent

**Indicates please stand in body or in spirit*

*"In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand.
We will understand only what we are taught."
- Baba Dioum, Senegalese conservationist"*

We Gather as God's People

Prelude

Gathering Songs Come Bring your Burdens to God

South African traditional,
trans. Barbara Clark, Mairi Munro,
& Martine Stemerick

**Come, bring your burdens to God
For Jesus will never say no.**

Through it All

Andraé Crouch

**Through it all, through it all,
I've learned to trust in Jesus, I've learned to trust in God
Through it all, through it all,
I've learned to depend upon God's word.**

Me Alone

MV#118

Words of Welcome

Norman Tanaka

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 14:1-14

Winston Roach

One:

The word of Hope

All:

Thanks be to God!

Meditation

You are Invited

Maya Brathwaite

Anthem

We Shall Overcome

African-American spiritual;
arr. William Farley Smith

We Respond with our Thanks and Prayers

Minute for Mission

Pam Cameron

Invitation to Offer our Gifts and Ourselves

Offering Hymn

Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson

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



1.Lift ev - ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring, ring with the
2.God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, God who has



har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty; let our re - joic - ing rise, high as the
brought us this far on — the way; you who have by your might, led us in -



lis - tening — skies, let it re - sound loud as the rill - ing sea.
to the — light, keep us for - ev - er in the path — we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us, sing a
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we meet you, lest our



song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us; fac - ing the ris - ing
hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get you; shadowed be - neath your



sun of our new day be - gun, let us march on till vic - to - ry — is won.
hand, may we for - ev - er — stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

*Dedication Prayer

Farewell to the Sloan Family

Prayers of People and the Lord's Prayer (sung) VU#959

Dale Hildebrand

We Go Out to Be the People of God

Life and Work of the Congregation

- * Closing Hymn VU#595 We Are Pilgrims
- * 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 14:1-14 p. 77

Join us after service for a Potluck lunch!

* **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.

* **Special Message from the Sloans**

After a year in Toronto, Jen, Brendan, Emily and Isabel Sloan are returning to the UK on the 21st Feb. We would like to say a massive thank you to all those at Eastminster who have made us so welcome during our time here. When we arrived last February we knew nobody in the city, yet were immediately welcomed and included into the Eastminster congregation. We have been inspired by the activities run and supported here, in particular Out Of The Cold. We wish you all the very best, and will take home many happy memories of our time here.

* **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.

Eastminster Events

* **Worship Services**

On February 21 and 28 we will explore a different format for the opening of worship. In place of the opening hymn, we will begin worship with a series of songs to gather and centre the community for worship. We invite you to experience this singing as part of your prayer practice during the season of Lent.

Communities in diverse parts of the world open their worship this way; in some rural parts of Africa, congregants walk to church from miles around, and their singing—which might go on for over an hour!—continues until all the people are gathered. Worship does not start by a particular time on the clock, but instead begins when everyone in the community has arrived. Though we'll sing for only a few minutes rather than an hour, we echo this global practice with its spirit of community gathering and mutual welcome.

Our theme during Lent looks 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. We continue on February 28 with the Timely Table- exploring what we make time for in our lives. On March 6, Jane and the Youth will tell the story of the Prodigal Son. March 13 we explore the role of food in welcoming or excluding at the table. March 20 is Palm Sunday when we will begin the service with a bicycle palm parade at 10:15am. Our Holy week includes Maundy Thursday, March 24 at 7pm and Good Friday, March 25 at 10am beginning at Riverdale Presbyterian Church. You don't want to miss a minute of worship at Eastminster!

* **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.



* **Sun. March 13: Daylight Savings Time.... clock's spring forward!**

* **Sun. March 20: Palm Sunday**

* **Thurs. March 24: Maundy Thursday**

* **Fri. March 25: Good Friday**

* **Sun. March 27: Easter Sunday**

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

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

From our Friends

* **Starts TODAY! Sun. February 21 from 3-5pm: Do you like to Sing?**

We are gathering a "Cantata Pick Up Choir" to sing the Easter Cantata, "Where Have They Taken My Lord", at Hope United Church, 2550 Danforth Ave, (Main & Danforth) First rehearsal is this afternoon, 3 - 5pm, then each Sunday, 3 - 5pm until March 13th, when we will have our final rehearsal in the afternoon, share a meal, then sing the cantata at 7pm. Please join us when you can. We will be glad to have you with us. Info: hopeunitedchurch@gmail.com or call 647-825-5136.

* **TODAY! 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

allCanadians. <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.

* **Thurs. March 3 from 7.30-10pm: Join Us For An Evening of Fun!!**
Sparkhall Refugee Resettlement Group is one of the groups working together with Eastminster United Church to help raise funds to support Syrian refugee families. We are holding an evening which everyone is invited to with Middle Eastern snacks, interesting drinks, a fun lesson in useful Arabic words and phrases, a chance to chat with others and some surprises! Being held at the St. Matthews Lawn bowling Clubhouse, 550 Broadview Avenue at Langley. Bring a friend and come out and have some fun! **Tickets:** "Making the Rent" at Eventbrite.ca, for \$20, or \$25 at the door. It would be wonderful if you could join us!

* **Fri. March 11@ 7 pm: Jerusalem: Seven Days that Changed the World**
 A drama in one act: From Palm Sunday to Resurrection. Presented by the Metropolitan Silver Band and the Church School. **Location:** Metropolitan United Church 56 Queen St. East. Please RSVP to Karlos Griffith & Dr. Mastandrea at: johnjosephm@metunited.org or 416-809-6044

* **Thurs. March 24 from 6-9pm: Super Theatre at Presteign-Woodbine United Church**
 Last Supper Theatre - A light dinner and provocative drama event. Free will offering. Seating limited. Please RSVP to reserve a place at the table. 16 Presteign Avenue, Toronto, Near St. Clair West and O'Connor. RSVP: 416 755-8352 or pwoffice@gmail.com.

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

Staff

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

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