

**Trinity United Church**  
**Fifth Sunday in Lent – A**  
**March 29, 2020**  
**Blessing of Farmers and Farm Families**

*Welcome All*

- Newcomers please sign our guestbook 
- Special requests may be made through Facebook 
- Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible. 
  - Trinity is an Affirming Congregation and is inclusive of folk who find themselves a part of what is described as “LGBTQ+”
  - We have large print bulletins
  - Access to the Office may be possible if pre arranged at 613 283 4444
  - Church business will be conducted remotely as much as possible
  - Worship will be recorded and posted to FaceBook and our WebPage

**Welcome and Announcements**

This week’s Phone Tree Message - as of 25 March 2020

◦ **Comfort**

Last week, we included a prayer from the Moderator of the United Church of Canada. This week, we include a prayer from the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, The Rev. Amanda Currie

*Loving God,*

*We thank you for your presence with your children through the anxiety of the COVID-19 situation.*

*Thank you for wise leadership and health authorities that guide us in making good decisions for our communities.*

*Thank you for doctors, nurses, medical researchers and technicians, and all those who are working to care for the sick and develop treatments for this illness.*

*Thank you for cleaning staff and caregivers and volunteers, and all who are working to keep our environments clean and safe.*

*Thank you for elders, neighbours, and friends who are working to care for those who are vulnerable, alone or afraid.*

*Thank you for the peace and comfort that comes from knowing that we are not alone.*

*God, grant us patience as we wait; grant us courage as we serve you and care for one another; grant us hope as we trust in you for the future.*

*Amen.*

○ **Communication**

- Trinity United Church News and Updates -
  - Trinity United Church is closed
  - We will not try to predict the end of this circumstance and will follow the direction of our church and government leaders.
  - Worship Services will be recorded and replayed
    - On COGECO - Your TV at the regularly scheduled time
    - On the Trinity United Church Web Page and FaceBook
  - This Sunday’s Worship is dedicated to Farmers and Farm Families, Folk in our community who provide the first and foremost Essential Service. Join us for a time of honouring, celebrating and blessing our Farm Folk.
  - If you are on FaceBook, a TUC FaceBook group has been created. You may wish to join and check in from time to time.

○ **Connection**

- The Healing Pathway Team and others are actively holding your name in prayer and will be praying together from 1:00 - 1:30 pm every Wednesday. Some will be praying longer. Should you choose to pray at this time or longer, you will know that many others are praying with and for you.

○ **Care**

- How are you doing?
- Are you alone?
- Is somebody regularly checking in?
- Would you like somebody to pick up a prescription or other small errand?
- Would you like to volunteer to run small errands for others from time to time?
- We will be part of your support as best we can and as circumstances permit

If you want to be contacted regularly by phone, contact the church and let us know - the church office number is - 613 283 4444

COVID-19 Community Meal Distribution Points		
Monday	St. John the Evangelist Anglican • Upstairs Hall - 2 George St	11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Tuesday	Trinity United Church - Brown Bag & Blessing • Foyer of Trinity United Church - 41 Market Street	11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Wednesday	St Francis de Sales - St. Vincent de Paul Society • 4 McGill St (Hanley Hall)	12:00 - 1:00 pm
Thursday	St. John the Evangelist Anglican • Upstairs Hall - 2 George St	11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Friday	St. John the Evangelist Anglican	11:00 am - 2:00 pm

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Upstairs Hall - 2 George St</li></ul> |  |
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We are grateful for the Town of Smiths Falls. Take Away Meals that are being offered during this State of Emergency are subsidized through the generosity of the Community Grant Program

**The Outreach Team** seeks donations for Brown Bags and Blessings -

- **Sandwich and Box Lunch Supplies** - Tuesday Morning

Let Betty Lou know ... .

### **Acknowledging Traditional Territory**

Smiths Falls is located on the traditional territory of the Algonquin peoples dating back countless generations. We are grateful for our neighbours and recognize the opportunity to exercise the Ministry of Reconciliation

### **Introduction to the Service**

Each year at this time, Trinity United Church acknowledges, celebrates and Blesses Farmers, Farm Families and the work of their hands. This year we have a stark understanding of what an Essential Service is and who it is that provides it.

Elements of the service are taken from “Recognizing That Food Is Sacred: Seed Service” The United Church of Canada

We are grateful for Arlene Hunter who guides us each year in the preparation of this service.

**Farmer’s Introit** - Farmer’s Song, Murray McLauchlan

**Lenten Music** Hymn 121 "Tree Of Life and Awesome Mystery"

### ***Extinguishing of the Fifth Candle***

God of all our fear and sorrow,  
God who gives beyond our death;  
hold us close through each tomorrow, love as near as every breath,  
love as near as every breath.

### **Call to Worship**

Taken from the earth...

**like lumps of clay**

Made from the soil...

**like lumps of clay**

Moulded and fashioned...

**like lumps of clay**

Worked and re-worked...

**like lumps of clay**

People of God, look around you!

Look and see what God has made—

**creations of beauty!**

The birds of the air, the fish of the sea...

**creations of joy!**

Every star, every planet, every atom, every quark...

**creations of love!**

As part of this love-given, joy-filled, beautiful creation,  
let us give thanks to the Potter who gave us life and form -

**Alleluia. Alleluia! ALLELUIA!**

### **Prayer of Gathering**

Creating God,

provide us with all we need to grow into what you created us to be -

As the earth nourishes seeds, may we be nourished by our community and the assurance  
of your holy presence.

As the sun provides energy, leading seeds to transformation,  
may we find the courage to embrace new life  
through the example of Jesus.

As water refreshes and replenishes growing seedlings,  
may we be restored by the movement of the spirit.

In times of drought,

when we cannot feel your warmth or taste your goodness, protect us from harmful attitudes  
and actions, and lead us again to abundant life.

**Amen.**

**Hymn** 520 "We Plough The Fields And Scatter"

**Learning with Children** What is essential?

**Scripture** Psalm 23 VU 747 "The Lord's My Shepherd"

**Hymn** 509 "Here I Am Lord"

**Reflection** The Most Essential Service

**Hymn** MV 126 "Are You A Shepherd?"

**We Respond to God's Word  
Offering Ourselves  
For The Work And Witness Of The Church**

**Invitation to Offering**

## Trinity Needs Your Help

During these trying times, Trinity's life and work continues in many ways. While our Sunday services and many other things in our lives are on hold until further notice, and our building is closed, our staff and members are still active and operational costs continue.

There will be no opportunity for the regular collection of offerings each week, so Trinity needs you to share your gifts in a different way. We have 4 options:

1. Please visit the [www.trinityunitedsf.ca](http://www.trinityunitedsf.ca) and use the "DONATE" button. It takes you to CanadaHelps.org where you can make a safe and secure, one time or monthly donation as often as you want.
2. This may also be a good time to start using Pre-authorized Payments. The form for that is attached to this post and can be printed off and mailed to the church office at 41 Market St. Smiths Falls, K7A 2E7
3. We have also set up an e-transfer account to accept your donation. Please use [secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca](mailto:secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca) . Password not required. Please note your envelope number.
4. Of course you can always mail a donation to the church office at 41 Market Street, Smiths Falls, ON K7A 2E7

If you require assistance or have any questions about making donations, please do not hesitate to contact the church office at 613-283-4444 or by email at [secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca](mailto:secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca).

Thank you.

**Offertory** "Turn, Turn, Turn"

**\*Offering Hymn** 227 "For The Fruit Of All Creation"

**\*Offering Prayer**

**We thank you, God, for the circle of life:**

**the cycle of receiving and giving and the cycle of seed time and harvest.**

**Bless these gifts that we now present, trusting in their future promise.**

**Amen.**

***A Farmer's Creed*** - I read this on behalf of our Farmers

I believe a person's greatest possession is their dignity and that no calling bestows this more abundantly than farming.

I believe hard work and honest sweat are the building blocks of a person's character.

I believe that farming, despite its hardships and disappointments, is the most honest and honourable way a person can spend their days on this earth.

I believe farming nurtures the close family ties that make life rich in ways money can't buy.

I believe my children are learning values that will last a lifetime and can be learned in no other way.

I believe farming provides education for life and that no other occupation teaches so much about birth, growth and maturity in such a variety of ways.

I believe many of the best things in life are indeed free; the splendour of a sunrise, the rapture of wide-open spaces, the exhilarating sight of your land greening each spring.

I believe true happiness comes from watching your crops ripen in the field, your children growing tall in the sun, your whole family feeling the pride that springs from their shared experience.

I believe that by my toil I am giving more to the world than I am taking from it, an honour that does not come to all.

I believe my life will be measured ultimately by what I have done for others, and by this standard I fear no judgment.

I believe when a person grows old and sums up their days, they should be able to stand tall and feel pride in the life they've lived.

I believe in farming because it makes all this possible.

**Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People**

Creating God,

For the care that we can give and receive as your creatures,

**we give you thanks.**

For Megan Michelle who shone her bright light in the lives of Carolyn and Simon Lunn for 3 short years,

**we give you thanks.**

For the care and protection of our folk in Retirement Residences, Special Care Homes, Self-Isolating in single dwellings and apartments.

**we give you thanks.**

And we ask for your care and protection over our Farmers and Farm Families; Folk who have answered your Call and Challenge to be the agents through which we receive that sustenance that is truly essential.

**As you receive the prayers of all creation, receive our prayers.**

We hold this soil as a present and future gift.

The medium of growth and nourishment from seed to harvest  
the power of dreams to grow in unexpected ways.

Growth that will help us celebrate life,  
and God's promise for a world where  
all are fed and all are loved.

May this soil remind us all,  
that we, too, are sacred seeds planted in God's garden.

Thank you, God, for the gift of soil, seed and  
your faithful stewards of the earth,  
Farmers and Farm Families.

**The Lord's Prayer**

**We Depart to Serve with Joy**

**Hymn** MV 30 "It's a Song of Praise to the Maker"

**Benediction**

**Choral Amen**

**Postlude** "Bringing In The Sheaves"