



TRINITY
 UNITED CHURCH
 Smiths Falls, Ontario, Canada

Fourth Sunday of Lent - A
 March 19, 2023

"One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

John 9:25b

Welcome and Announcements

† Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.

– Trinity is an Affirming Congregation

† Our building is open 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Monday through Thursday

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<p>March 19 11:30am, Chilli Lunch</p> <p>March 21 6:00pm, Potluck and Prayers</p> <p>March 22 10:00am, Lenten Study 11:00am, Camp Awesome 12:30pm, Healing Pathway</p>	<p>March 26 10:30am, Farming Sunday 12:30pm, Drum Circle</p> <p>March 27 3:30pm, Confirmation Session</p> <p>March 29 10:00am, Lenten Study 12:30pm, Healing Pathway 7:00pm, Council</p>
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We will Welcome New Members on Palm Sunday

Smiths Falls Community Food Bank appreciates donations

Sunday School is the 2nd and last Sunday of the Month

Social Time after church - sign up in the Hall

Today Sunday Chilli - 11:30am Free Will Offering

The UCW will be hosting a viewing party and Tea for the Coronation of King Charles III on 6 May, 2023. In preparation, the UCW will be holding a Fascinator Workshop on 15 April from 1:00 - 4:00pm. Registration Forms are available in the entrance.



A fascinator is a formal headpiece, a style of millinery. Since the 1990s, the term has referred to a type of formal headwear worn as an alternative to the hat; it is usually a large decorative design attached to a band or clip. In contrast to a hat, its function is purely ornamental

Discernment and Visioning Sessions will be held at Trinity with the guidance of the Rev Dr Peter Bartlett.

Session One - Who are We?

Sunday, 7 May, following Worship. Potluck Workshop

Session Two - Where is God Calling Us to Go?

Saturday, 10 June. Potluck Workshop

Session Three - What Does that Look Like? (Creative Brainstorming)

Sunday, 9 July, following Worship. Potluck Workshop



July 17 - 21
Trinity Smiths Falls

We have new video cameras.

Introit 406 “See the Morning Sun Ascending” vs. 1

See the morning sun ascending,
radiant in the eastern sky;
hear the angel voices blending
in their praise to God on high!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Glory be to God on high!

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

Call to Worship

The Lord is our Shepherd.
God leads us by still waters.

Christ restores our souls.
The Spirit leads us in right paths.

Let us worship God who is always with us.
We will praise our God, trusting in God’s goodness and mercy!

Opening Prayer

Gracious and loving God,
You are the Source of all that sustains us.
You are compassion, embracing us when we call for mercy.
You are mercy guiding us through anxious times.
You are wisdom, revealing truth to challenge and renew us.

Holy One, you bless us with your presence day by day,

so we turn to you in worship, to seek your blessing once again.

We offer you our love and loyalty, our prayers and our praise,
for you are Love, Light and Life for us,
and we belong to you. Amen.

Lenten Liturgy

Just as the Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness,
**the Spirit leads us into places of uncertainty
where we confront our weakness and insecurities.**

Here we are taught to pay attention
to those whom others ignore.

Jesus insists that

God's grace is revealed in unlikely people.

God's realm is a place where all are welcome,
regardless of their state or position.

In a world of disparity,
we recognize that some receive
what is denied to others.

**Let us break through barriers
that keep many from receiving
the grace that they need.**

Hymn 412 "This Is The Day"

This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made, that our God has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

This is the day that our God has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day, this is the day

that our God has made.

Open to us, open to us
your gates, O God, your gates, O God;
we will go in, we will go in,
to your holy place, to your holy place.
Open to us your gates, O God,
we will go in to your holy place.
Open to us, open to us your gates, O God.

You are our God, you are our God,
we will praise your name, we will praise your name;
we will give thanks, we will give thanks,
for your faithfulness, for your faithfulness.
You are our God, we will praise your name,
we will give thanks for your faithfulness.
You are our God, you are our God,
we will praise your name.

Prayer of Confession

God of life and love,

These days we confess that events around us shake our trust in your love.

When terror strikes and innocents fall, we wonder if love can defeat violence.

**When truth is twisted by misleading claims,
we wonder if love can prevail over lies.**

When we face trouble, we wonder if you love us at all.

Forgive us, God, when we lose our trust in your love.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, remember the words of St Paul:

“Neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.”

Today, let us trust that, no matter what is happening around us, no matter what we have done, God’s deep love will never let us go. May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Scripture 1 Samuel 16:1-13
 Psalm 23 (VU747)
 John 9:1-41

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.”

Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.”

And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem.

The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?”

He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the Lord.”

But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one."

Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one."

Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these."

Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?"

And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep."

And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome.

The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one."

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

"The Lord's My Shepherd" Psalm 23 (VU747)

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green; He leadeth me,
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again;
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
even for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill;
For thou art with me; and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me;
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling-place shall be.

John 9

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?"

Some were saying, "It is he."

Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him."

He kept saying, "I am he."

But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"

He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."

They said to him, "Where is he?"

He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight.

He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see."

Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath."

Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided.

So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened."

He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner."

He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"

Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."

The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."

Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."

He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.

Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind."

Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?"

Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

Meditation "God So Loved The World" (Stainer)

Reflection Fishing Tip Eight
Say Who You Are

Hymn MV 82 "Bathe Me In Your Light"

Bathe me in your light, O God of All, Creator;
let it shine upon my soul with healing and with grace.
Be to me a beacon bright through shadows of life's wounding,
showing me the way to live in faith, in your embrace.

Bathe me in your love, O Source of Awe and Wonder;
help me walk the sacred path of harmony and peace.
May I be attentive to the musings of your presence,
drinking from the well of hope that brings the heart release.

Bathe me in your grace, O One of Spirit's longing;
teach me of your gentle ways that fill the soul with strength.
Guide me on the pilgrimage that leads to truth and wholeness,
Fill me with your promise of a love that knows no length.

Invitation to the Offering

As our Shepherd, God calms our fears and tends our needs. We offer our gifts in gratitude for God's goodness, trusting that we can share that goodness in a world often filled with fear and need.

Offering Options

- E-transfers to secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca
- delivery to church office
- through Trinity website DONATE button
- PAR

Offering Prayer

God our Good Shepherd, receive these gifts and bless them with your love. Use them to bring light and healing to the world you love for the sake of Christ, your Son, our Saviour. Amen.

Hymn 111 "As The Sun With Longer Journey"

As the sun with longer journey
melts the winter's snow and ice,
With its slowly growing radiance
warms the seed beneath the earth,
May the sun of Christ's uprising
gently bring our hearts to life.

Through the days of waiting,
watching in the desert of our sin,
Searching on the far horizon
for a sign of cloud or wind,
We await the healing waters
of our Saviour's victory.

Praise be given to the Maker
of the seasons' yearly round:
To the Speaker through the Spoken
in their living Breath of love
As the ever turning seasons
roll to their eternal rest.

Prayers of the People

God, Shepherd of our Lives,

We give you thanks for all the things you provide that make life good
and full:

For the rhythms of nature which water thirsty lands, producing
food for all creatures;

For energy to work

and for community to share in the produce of work.

Yet we are still thirsty in this land of plenty:

thirsty for hope when work fails;
thirsty for love when friends fail;
thirsty for justice when sharing fails.

Shepherd God, fill us with your love
Lead us on your paths.

God, Shepherd of our Lives

Thank you for the light you shine in a world filled with complexity
to bring hope and increase understanding:

Understanding to address human need and improve daily
life;

Understanding to deepen relationships and mutual respect;

Understanding to tackle problems and seek solutions.

And so we seek your light to lead us:

the light of wisdom to bring people of different perspectives
together;

the light of courage to work for change in desperate situations;

the light of hope to persevere when change is difficult.

Shepherd God, fill us with you love
Lead us on your paths.

God, Shepherd of our Lives,

Thank you for the purpose and potential you create for us in Christ:

For creating friendships and neighbourhoods that support us,

For creating co-operation to accomplish goals that seemed
impossible,

For creating gratitude for the gifts we discover in each other.

And so we seek the gifts of the Spirit we need in these challenging
days:

The gift of confidence to renew our ministries in humility and hope,

The gift of generosity to renew lives in need around us,

The gift of faith to trust you for a future we cannot yet see ourselves.

Shepherd God,

Lead us on your paths.

God, Good Shepherd of our Lives,

We give you thanks that Jesus walks beside us and leads us
on the paths you set before us into the future,
and so we pray the words he taught us -

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.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

EOORC Prayer Cycle

Harrowsmith-Verona Pastoral Charge
Trinity United Church

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

We Depart to Serve in Peace and with Love

Time for the Young

Hymn MV 6 “Holy Spirit, Come Into Our Lives”

Refrain -

Holy Spirit, come into our lives.

Holy Spirit, make us truly wise.

Give us a spirit of wisdom,
an understanding heart.

Give us a spirit of knowledge,
and lead us to the truth.

Refrain

Give us a spirit of courage,
and judgment that is wise.

Give us a spirit of rev'ence,
of wonder and of awe.

Refrain

Spirit of love and compassion,
give hope to all the poor.

Spirit of justice and mercy,
come open ev'ry door.

Refrain

Spirit of all consolation,
O lift our hearts this day.

Spirit of all understanding,
O help us know your way.

Refrain

Spirit of light and of wisdom,
O lift us from our sorrow.
Spirit of peace and forgiveness,
O help us face tomorrow.

Refrain

Spirit of strength and of healing,
bend stubborn hearts and will.
Spirit of trust and of caring,
O melt us, warm our chill.

Refrain

Benediction

As we continue our Lenten journey, remember the words from Ephesians:

“Live as children of light.” So may the light of God’s love surround you,

The light of Christ’s mercy renew you,
And the light of the Spirit guide
this day and every day to come.

Choral Amen

Postlude 87 "I Am The Light Of The World"

Refrain -

***I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!”
If you follow and love you’ll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.***

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds have found their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun...

Refrain -

To find the lost and lonely one,
to heal the broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
to feel the earth below, the sky above!...

Refrain -

To free the prisoner from all chains,
to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,
to see God's children everywhere!...

Refrain -

To bring hope to every task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in an old person's heart,
and sing to the colours of the earth!...

Refrain -

Recurring Events and Activities at Trinity

Every Monday, 1:00pm	Book Group
First Monday, 9:30am	UCW
Fourth Monday, 9:30am	Property Team / Church Hall
Every Tuesday, All Day	Pastoral Visitation
First Tuesday, 1:00pm - 3:00pm	Retirement Residences
First Tuesday, 7:00pm	Outreach and Social Justice
Third Tuesday, 9:30am	Stewardship & Finance Team / Upper Room
Third Tuesday, 6:00pm	Potluck and Praise
Every Wednesday, 10:00am	Bible Study / Seasonal Study
Second Wednesday, 12:30pm	Healing Pathway
Second Wednesday, 7:00pm	Spiritual Leadership Meeting
Fourth Wednesday, 12:30pm	Healing Pathway
Last Wednesday, 7:00pm	Council
Second Friday, 6:00pm	Rainbow 101
Every Sunday, 8:30am (Except Second Sunday)	Choir Practice
Every Sunday, 11:30am	Soaking Prayer
Second Sunday, 8:30am	Early Communion
Second Sunday, 9:00am	Choir Practice
Second Sunday, 10:30am	Sunday School
Last Sunday, 10:30am	Sunday School
Last Sunday, 1:00pm	Lanark Drum Circle

Jesus helps a blind man see.

John 9:1-41

