



St. Thomas United Church
Open Hands – Open Hearts – Open Minds

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Sunday, March 5, 2017, 10:00am
Theme: And So It Begins

† indicates stand as you are able
Bold indicates participation by the people

MV = More Voices
VU = Voices United

We Gather With

PRELUDE: *Kari Orosz: Concerning Hobbits - by Howard Shore*

WELCOME to our Livestream Worship Service

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TREATY 7 LAND

GREETING ONE ANOTHER & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Wicker Prayer Basket will be sent around – if you have a prayer, please print clearly on a prayer slip, place your prayer in the wicker basket, and pass the basket along)

INTROIT: *God of the Bible (v.1 + chorus)*

MV#28

CHRIST CANDLE & SILENCE – *(Betty Ann Murray)*

CALL TO WORSHIP: **(Responsive)**

Our Lenten journey calls us to venture along the rocky road of challenge and blessing.

We are guided by ancestors who led with compassion and faithfulness.

We follow Jesus Christ, who is our teacher and companion.

Christ is our example and friend. Thanks be!

OPENING PRAYER: *(Leader)*

(Children and Youth are invited to join their leaders at one of the entrances to the Sanctuary)

†HYMN: *Jesus, Tempted in the Desert*

VU#115

SCRIPTURE: *Matthew 4:1-11 (NRSV)*

Scripture Reader: David Gray

Affirmation:

One: This is the witness of The Church,

Many: thanks be to God!

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *The Adult Choir: Battle of Jericho*

– arr. by Mark Hayes

THE MESSAGE: *Adventure!*

†HYMN: *Forty Days and Forty Nights*

VU#114

MINUTE FOR MISSION: *Equipping a Child for School*

INVITATION TO OPEN HANDS

OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN HANDS

with our Offerings & Prayers.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *Violin Solo: Louise Benckhuysen –
“Adoration” by Felix Borowski*

†OFFERTORY: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

VU#541

†OFFERTORY PRAYER: ***(Unison)***

Take these gifts we offer, loving God, and use them for your work. Take our very selves – our hopes, our dreams, our plans, our wonderings – and use them, too, to make your world a better place. We pray in Christ’s name. Amen

CALL TO PRAYER: *Love Us into Fullness*

MV#81

PASTORAL PRAYERS & PRAYER OF JESUS (*Unison*)

†COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION: (*Responsive*)

Even in times of temptations,

God provides guidance and strength.

Even when we do things wrong,

God does not stop loving us and forgiving us.

Even when we are in the Season of Lent, moving towards Good Friday,

still there is light, and the promise of Easter.

So go into the world – and into this season – filled with thanksgiving for the God who never abandons us, no matter what, and know that God will be with you always.

HYMN: *On Eagle's Wings (Psalm 91)*

VU#808

POSTLUDE

Participating in worship leadership today: Rev. Tracy Robertson, Kari Orosz, The Adult Choir, Jeff McLean, John Robertson, Linda Miller, David Gray, Diane & John Latter, David Gray, Kristin Raugust, Louise Benckhuysen, Betty Ann Murray, Lori Weller, Maxine Mendritzki, Ashley Gibbons.