



# Strathmore United Church

April 6, 2025

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, Holy Communion

Rev. Maria Szabone Berces

### Greetings & Welcome:

L: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

P: and also, with you..

Based on 2 Cor. 13:13

### Announcements:

### Lighting the Christ Candle:

*From Worship Design Studio Series: Busy; Used with permission*

🎵 Centering: I See a New Heaven (Vs 1&3) \*VU #713

### Call to Worship:

L: When we worship something,

P: **We recognize its worth.**

L: Many things can be worshipped -

P: **But for us, as Christians, God alone is worthy, Jesus alone is Lord.**

L: We can recognize, celebrate, revere ... love!

P: **In our speaking, in our singing, in our serving, in our praying, in all these things – we worship God.**

*Written by Richard Bott: Gathering, Lent-Easter; 2019, Page 30; Used with permission*

### Opening Prayer:

*Written by Susan Ivany; Gathering, Lent-Easter; 2019, Page 31; Used with permission*

### Story Time for all ages:

🎵 Hymn: Spirit, Open My Heart \*MV #79

### Prayer of Confession:

L: Saving God,

P: **We are your people, yet we often do not show this to the world. We are your children, yet we often turn our backs on you:**

**We are your voice, yet we are often silent.  
We are your body, yet we often walk away from you.  
Forgive us for not trusting you. Forgive us for ignoring you.  
Help us to praise you.  
Help us to find peace with you  
as we bring our silent prayers before you.**  
*(a time of silent prayer)*

**Word of Assurance:**

**L:** Hear the words of assurance from a loving God, a compassionate Son, and a healing Holy Spirit: weeping will be turned to laughter. Sorrow will become joy. Death will be life. All who are lost will be redeemed. Those broken, will be healed. All that is divided will be reconciled.

**P: May we find the peace of forgiveness, for in Christ, our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

*Written by Heather Tober; Gathering, Lent-Easter; 2019, Page 33; Used with permission*

** Hymn: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (2X) \*VU #400**

**Prayer of Illumination:**

**L:** Loving God, we continue our Lenten journey seeking truth and wisdom for the days ahead, knowing that we are guided by you every step of the way.

**P: As we receive your Word this morning, we continue to search for truth, understanding, and wisdom as we journey in faith. Amen.**

*Written by Bill Steadman; Gathering, Lent-Easter; 2019, Page 33; Used with permission*

**Reading of Scripture**

**Isaiah 43:16-21**

**John 12:1-8**

**L:** A Word of God that is still speaking,

**P: Thanks be to God.**

**Message:**

** Hymn: All Who Hunger \*VU #460**

**Holy Communion Liturgy:**

### **The Offering Invitation:**

L: It can seem like money sets life in motion.

**P: Yet, it is the Spirit that brings life.**

L: Sometimes it is as if money is in charge of our lives.

**P: However, we are disciples of Christ.**

L: Let us come and celebrate that money does not own us.

**P: Our hearts belong to God and our money is meant for blessing.**

L: Let us present the gift of our offering.

*Written by Karen Boivin; Gathering, Lent-Easter; 2019, Page 35; Used with permission*

### **M&S Story:**

When you use what God has blessed you with generously to care for creation and neighbour, you are praising God.

 **Dedication:** Grateful (Refrain) \*MV #182  
Grateful for the life you give us, thankful for your Holy Son,  
joyful in your Spirit flowing over all, O God of Love.  
Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,  
thankful for your Holy Word,  
joyful in your mercy flowing, we will praise you.

### **Prayer of Dedication:**

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### **Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer:**

 **Hymn:** In the Bulb There Is a Flower (VS 1-2) \*VU #703

### **Commissioning and Benediction:**

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 **Response:** In the Bulb There Is a Flower (VS 3) \*VU #703

### **Passing the Peace of Christ**

L: May the God of Peace go with you.

**P: And also with you.**

*Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the  
Library after the service.*

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**Songs for a Gospel People #97:***Holy, Holy Lord (Sanctus)*: Words, Music: Jim Strathdee. Desert Flower Music. Reprinted/Podcast with permission under ONE LICENSE #734505-A. All rights reserved.