

**Genesis Cooperative  
of the United Church of Canada  
in Partnership with the  
Glenqarry East Pastoral Charge**

***Consisting of the congregations of:  
Alexandria, Cassburn, Dalhousie Mills, East Hawkesbury,  
Kirk Hill, Pendleton, Trinity (Vankleek Hill)***

**Sunday, March 19, 2023  
Lent 4  
Holy Communion at Pendleton**



**Worship Leaders Today**

Trinity / Cassburn	9:30/11:00	Ruth Pentinga
Alexandria / Kirk Hill	9:15/11:00	Luane Doyle
Pendleton (C)	10:00	Rev. Phyllis Dietrich
Dalhousie Mills	11:15	Deborah Suddard
East Hawkesbury	11:15	No Service

*“Surely God is in this place... help me notice”  
(attributed to St. Lawrence)*

## **We Gather to Praise God**

*Welcome to our worship service today.*

*We pray you will feel God's presence as we worship together.*

*You are invited to join in reading the responses and prayers, printed in **bold**.*

### **♪Prelude**

### **Greeting and Welcome**

### **The Life and Work of the Church**

### **Minute for Mission**

### **♪Sung Introit: “O God, How We Have Wandered”**

**Vs1 VU 112**

*O God, how we have wandered and hidden from your face,  
in foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.*

*But how, in exile dwelling, we turn with fear and shame,  
as distant but compelling, you call us each by name.*

### **The Call to Worship:**

Come into the wild pastures, where sheep graze, and nothing seems amiss. This place feels so very alive. The trees clap, the birds sing, and the light bounces so that it feels like anything could happen here. **We come to worship that promise and possibility. We come to open our eyes to endless grace.**

### **The Opening Prayer:**

Loving God, walk beside us in this place and invite us to see what you see. May we find more love in our gaze and more grace in our presence as we worship you today. **AMEN.**

🎵 Hymn:

*“This Day God Gives Me”*

VU 410

**The Prayer of Confession:**

God, when we have held on to our own ways too long, trusting in what we have come to know so well, and believing in our own comforts, enable us to let go of the familiar, and trust in you. Allow us to let go of our pride, and trust in your companionship. When our faith seems dry and our souls drier, enable us to let go of the past, and trust in your future. Teach us to sing your hope again. **AMEN.**

**The Words of Affirmation:**

🎵 Hymn:

*“Psalm 23”*

VU 273 or VU 747

**We Listen for God’s Word**

**Scripture Lessons:**

**1 Samuel 16:** Samuel chooses one of Jesse’s sons as King.

**Psalm 23 VU 747-749** God is my Shepherd.

**Ephesians 5: 8-14** Live as children of the light.

**John 9: 1-41** Jesus heals the man born blind.

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.*

**Thanks be to God!**

**Message:**

🎵 Hymn:

*“Open My Eyes”*

VU 371

# We Respond to God's Word

## Offering Invitation

🎵 **Response:**      *“Your Work, O God”*      Vs. 1&2      VU 537

*Your work, O God needs many hands to help you everywhere,  
and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share.  
Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make;  
be pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.*

## The Prayer of Dedication:

Loving God, giver of all things, as people alive to your goodness, we offer these gifts and the talents of this community to the service of all our children within our neighbourhood and beyond, throughout our nation and our world. **AMEN.**

## The Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven ... (found at VU 960)**

🎵 **Hymn:**                      *“Amazing Grace”*                      VU 266

## The Closing Words

🎵 **Sung Blessing:**      *“Go Now in Peace”*

**Go now in peace, never be afraid,  
God will go with you each hour of everyday.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.  
Know he will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love and show you believe,  
Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there watching from above,  
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.**

## 🎵 Postlude

*Our Worship Ends – Our Service Begins*

## Announcements

✠ *As church, we are called to pray for each other  
and for our mission in the world* ✠

The People of Ukraine;  
Trinity United, Harrowsmith-Verona, ON



### Question of the Day:

#### Psalm 23:

How might this Psalm inspire us to  
protect green pastures and clear water?

**Deadline for Cassburn Easter Newsletter is Sunday, March 26, 2023.** Please e-mail any submissions to Stephanie Anderson at [bandsanderson@rogers.com](mailto:bandsanderson@rogers.com) or give directly to Stephanie or Bryan. The phone number to reach Stephanie directly is (613) 678-1681.

### Easter Schedule:

**April 7:** Plan to attend the **Good Friday** service at **Dalhousie Mills** this year. Date and time: Friday, **April 7 at 10:30 a.m.**

**April 9:** Trinity United (VKH) is having a Breakfast Brunch after the **Easter Sunday** service. Come and enjoy the fellowship.



A blind person asked St. Anthony, "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied, "Yes, losing your vision!"

*The United Church of Canada gratefully acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.*

*Our vital, innovative, and healing ministries are supported by generous Mission and Service donations.*

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**Genesis Cooperative Community  
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**Minister: Rev. Phyllis Dietrich**

**Administrative Assistant:** Gabrielle Becker

**Administrative Office Hours:**

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

**Announcement Deadline:** Wednesday @ noon



**OK, Show of hands...  
Who's tired of snow?**



## **Minute for Mission**

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**“The care of people who are strangers to one another - the importance and impact of that can’t be overstated.”**

You may think Mission & Service just happens far away from your church.

But the effects of Mission & Service may be as close as your local pulpit.

Mission & Service does a surprising amount of development in your local church, recruiting new ministers and funding theological schools. It even shapes the hymn books you sing from every service.

Another important way Mission & Service supports local ministry: by providing academic bursaries for students studying to become ministers and theological leaders.

“The church has a lot to offer in terms of witness to the community and supporting people who are struggling,” explains the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Janzen-Ball, the United Church’s Executive Minister for Theological Leadership.

*The money is really helpful, but the other thing that is so important to students is realizing that people throughout the church cared enough to donate to Mission & Service.*

Janzen-Ball knows there’s more to a bursary than just the financial gift. “The money is really helpful,” she says, “but the other thing that is so important to students is realizing that people throughout the church cared enough to donate to Mission & Service.”

The Rev. Alexa Gilmour received one of these bursaries when she was still a ministry candidate. “I was a single parent, and I knew I couldn’t get through without support,” Gilmour says. “I felt blessed by God through people who donated and who, by giving, encouraged me on my journey.

“I have tremendous gratitude for that important role the church played in my life at that time.”

Janzen-Ball wants you to know that your gifts do matter.

“They matter both tangibly in peoples’ lives in a real way but also in intangible ways because they signal the support of the wider community,” she says. “The care of people who are strangers to one another - the importance and impact of that can’t be overstated.

“Giving to Mission & Service is an opportunity to support future and current leaders. Those gifts make a significant difference.”

