

April 3, 2011

LENT IV Year A

Welcome to Ellesmere United Church


Unit 160-8960 University High Street, Burnaby, BC, V5A 4Y6

If this is your first time with us, thank you for coming. Your presence is a blessing for us.

We hope you find a community for worship and a place for personal prayer.

If you have any questions about the order or nature of our community worship, feel free to ask your greeter today, the minister, or the people around you.

We want you to be comfortable and unburdened in our midst, and at peace in your experience of God in worship.

*  Indicates the community standing as able.

@ Indicates the text the minister is reading and reflecting on this Sunday.

What's Happening in Our Faith Community (from 10:45 until 11:00)

Thought for the Day

The old adage is seeing is believing, but maybe believing is seeing!

Opening of Worship

Leader: The Gospels and Epistles are full of images of light and sight. They present Jesus as a new light to a people who once saw clearly and a brighter light to those who were schooled in philosophy. (Lights Christ Candle)

Community: May we have our hearts opened this day to the possibilities of a new hope and a new life that are encompassed in the sacred texts we read, that we might see things differently and live accordingly!

Silent Prayer of Centering

(Let the sounding of the singing bowl lead you into a time of silent centering prayer and with its second sounding bring you back to community.)

Holy Greeting

Minister: The grace of our Sovereign Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Community: **And also with you.**

♪**Song MV #137 *Welcome, Jesus, You Are Welcome***

Prayer

Minister: It is vogue now to go on cleanses to rid our body of toxins, after all, the movie stars do it to stay thin, which our society values as beauty.

Community: **Holy God, in the season of Lent may we recall that we are called to maintain a time of spiritual cleansing that our inner nature might shine brighter than any Hollywood constellation.**

Minister: Remind us, O God, that all spiritual cleansing requires the ability to follow instructions and maintain a discipline. Guide us in this spiritual exercise that will change our entire being and our way of living.

Community: **Incarnate God, your existence challenges us to continue to put flesh to our faith and noble deeds to meet our creeds. Move us to both reflection and action that our lives might be evidence of this amazing grace. Amen.**

♪**Invitation to the Scriptures:**
MV #108 *I Know Your Word*

Writings of the Early Church

Ephesians 5: 8-14

Lay Reader: This is the witness of the Early Church.

Community: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 23 VU p. 749

Read responsively with refrain sung at places marked 'R'.

@Gospel: John 9: 1-41

Minister: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Community: Write these words on our hearts dear God!

Musical Reflections

Theological Reflection- Routines for Better Vision

♪**Song: MV #82 *Bathe Me In Your Light***

Invitation to Give

♪**Song of Praise and Dedication**

In gratitude and humble trust

We bring our best today

To serve your cause and share your love

With all along life's way.

O God, who gave yourself to us

In Jesus Christ, your Son,

Teach us to give ourselves each day

Until life's work is done!

Prayers of the Community- Voiced and Silent

(If voiced)

Individual: God hear our prayer.

Community: And in your love answer.

Prayer of Jesus (Ecumenical Version)

Our Father in heaven

Hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come,

You will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

As we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

And deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and

The glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen and Amen.

♪**Song: VU #266 *Amazing Grace***

Closing of Worship

Leader: We extinguish the symbol but not the reality for God's light continues to shine even in a society that has long since thought it has gone out. (Puts out Christ Candle)

Community: **Let us keep this little light of ours burning bright that it might be a gentle reminder of the Great Light.**

Closing Blessing

♪Choral Amen

