

St. Paul's United Church
March 1st, 2015 – Second Sunday in Lent
* = *please stand as you are able*

Prelude:

***Greeting**

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all,
and also with you.

Introit MV 85(x2)
*Take O take me as I am. Summon out what I will be.
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.*

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (Responsive)

The pathway is just beginning.

We have encountered the wilderness.

Now we are moving rapidly toward Jerusalem.

Along the way we will witness astonishing acts of mercy and justice.

Lord, be with us on the journey.

Guide our lives and our steps, we pray. AMEN.

Hebrew Scripture: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-17

***Opening Hymn** To Abraham and Sarah VU 634

Prayer of Reconciliation (Unison)

Guiding Lord, even though we hesitated on our Lenten journey; we vowed to come with you through all the trials and fears toward the Cross. Today we face the challenge which true commitment brings. Are we willing to offer our whole selves to you in service? We would like to think that we can do that, but we are aware of how many times we have turned away from service and instead focused on our own desires. Remind us again of the commitment you would have us give if we are to become disciples. Forgive our stubbornness and

fears. Lead us forward, gracious Lord, up these steps toward the Cross. AMEN.

Lenten Candle Liturgy

Six candles burning,

We can yet find our way.

The covenant of God to Abraham is a way post to grace,

From here we seek God's embrace.

Response Kindle A Flame(X2) VU 19
Kindle a flame to lighten the dark and take all fear away.

second candle is extinguished

Two candles not burning and we must proclaim

That Abraham's faith was righteous to God; we must be the same.

God loves and accepts us not for what we have done,

But through the faith and trust our God accepts through Jesus Christ the Son.

The Lord's Prayer VU 959

Time For All Ages

Hymn There Is Room For All (X2) MV 62
*There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;
There is room for all, sheltered in God's love.
And I rejoice and sing,
"My refuge and my rock in whom I trust."
There is room for all, there is room for all.*

Prayers of the People

Moment for Community

***Hymn** O Jesus I have promised VU 120

Offertory

***Dedication Verse**

VU 542

*We give you but your own, whate'er the gifts may be;
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.*

***Dedication Prayer (Unison)**

Generous God, you shower us with gifts, including the greatest gift of all, your own Son, Jesus Christ. In thanksgiving and praise, we offer you our time, our money, our very selves. In these actions, we proclaim our intention to be a blessing in your world. AMEN

Gospel Reading: Mark 8:31-38

Rev. Richard Bowley

**Anthem
Message**

***Hymn**

Love divine all loves excelling

VU 333

***Commissioning (Unison)**

We place our trust in God's guidance. We go into this world that is in such need of hope and healing with the love of Christ in our hearts. Though the journey is long, God will sustain us.

***Benediction**

***Choral Closing** VU 422

*God be with you till we meet again.
Loving Councils guide uphold you.
With a shepherds care enfold you.
God be with you till we meet again.
Till we meet, till we meet, Till we meet at Jesus' feet.
Till we meet, till we meet.
God be with you till we meet again.*

Postlude