

**First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge  
Sunday, April 6th, 2025  
Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**Praise Medley:** Cry of My Heart  
O, How I Love Jesus

**Greeting and Announcements**

**Introit:** Follow Me

**Call to Worship:**

We come to this place because we want to know God,  
**who helps us set aside the past, to walk the path to new life.**

We come in these moments because we want to know Jesus,  
**who anoints us with the resurrection, who shares our lives with us.**

We come with these people because we want to know the Spirit,  
**who shapes us for life with God, so we may praise God forever!**

**Prayer of Approach:** (unison)

**You have done great things for us, God of love. You make a way through our brokenness, so hope might be restored; you loosen our grip on fear, so we might take hold of the One who cradles us in the palms of grace.**

**You are doing great things through us, Brother of the poor. You make a way through our doubt, so we may have the faith to follow, as well as to serve by your side; you gather up our tears, turning them into fountains of joy.**

**You will do great things in us, Anointer of our hearts. You make a way through our hardened hearts, melting them into rivers of wonder for all; you touch our tongues so they tingle with delights, and laughter tumbles out of our mouths.**

**Continue to make a way through us, Holy One, as we worship you today. Amen.**

**Hymn:** We Are One VU 402

**A Time for All People**

**Prayer of Confession:** (unison)

**Like Judas, we like to complain about your generous ways, rather than living in your grace. The poor are always with us, which we believe justifies our ignoring them. In our memories, we see a perceived golden past, and so close our eyes to the new things you do in our midst. We are so enamored with our achievements that we are not willing to throw them away in order to follow Jesus.**

**Forgive us, God, and help us to notice the kingdom springing forth in our midst. By your grace, may our fears turn to faith, our seeds of grief produce a bumper crop of joy, and our tears turn into torrents of tenderness as we journey with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, to Jerusalem.**

(Silent reflection)

**Assurance of Pardon:**

Making a way through all the foolishness and mistakes of our lives, God leads us into new life, where we are restored to grace, to hope, and to peace.

**Do we notice what God has done for us, what God is doing in us? This is good news for everyone. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

**Hymn:** Be Thou My Vision VU 642

**Offertory Hymn:** We Praise You, O God VU 218 vs 1

**Offertory Prayer:** (unison)

**If we want to know you, Generous God, we must see you in those all around us. If we want to serve you, we must give up that which is most important to us, even our material resources, so that blessings of hope and life might be offered to the needy, the lonely, the hungry all around us.**

Receive our gifts, we pray, so that others might be transformed even as we are. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

**Scripture Readings:**

Hebrew Scriptures: Isaiah 43:16-21  
Psalm 126 **on page 850 of VU R 1**  
Epistle Lesson: Philippians 3:4b-14  
Gospel Lesson: John 12:1-8

**Ministry of Music**

**Meditation**

**Communion Hymn:** All Who Hunger **VU 460**

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** (see insert)

**Hymn:** Shall We Gather at the River **VU 710**

**Commission and Benediction:**

Go now in the righteousness of faith and live by God's just demands. Let nothing claim your devotion above the Lord, and count nothing of value above knowing Christ. Press on towards the ultimate prize, of being one with him.

**We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, in the name of Christ. Amen.**