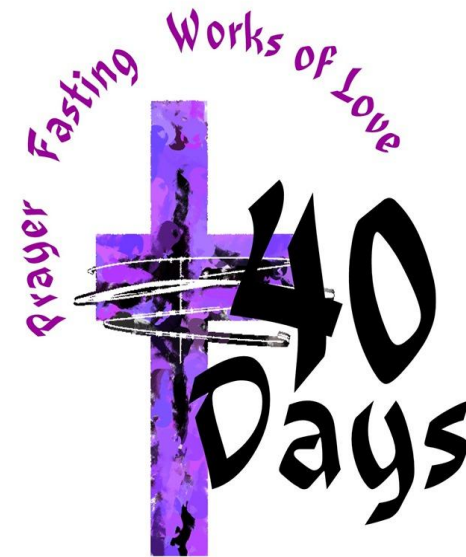




*The Heart in the Heart of Huntsville!*



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Minister: The Rev. Diane Knowles  
Pastoral Care Coordinator: Judy White  
Director of Music: Kyung-A Lee  
Church Administrator: Suzy Simson  
Custodian: Judy Hall

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

33 Main Street East, Huntsville, ON P1H 2B8  
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**Welcome to Trinity**  
**The Heart in the Heart of Huntsville**  
**The First Sunday in Lent**  
**February 22, 2026 - 10 am**

*“Loving Hearts ... Open Minds ... Serving Hands”*

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*“We are called to rise to our full height, claim our full selves  
and remember who we are.”*

Victoria Moran

**WE GATHER AS THE WHOLE PEOPLE OF GOD**

**Prelude:** Kyung-A Lee

**Introit:** “He Came Singing Love” (VU 359)

**All: He came singing love,  
and He lived singing love,  
He died singing love.  
He arose in silence, for the love to go on  
we must make it our song,  
you and I be the singers.**

**Greeting**

One: Jesus said: “I have come that you may have life and  
have it abundantly.”

**All: In our lives, may this be so.**

Welcome in Friendship! Welcome in Faith!  
Welcome in God’s transforming love!

*We gather every week as followers of Jesus to grow our  
hearts and to aspire to be better humans in order to build a  
better world for ALL God’s people. If you’re visiting or*

*shopping around for a new spiritual home, we are glad  
you’re here with us. May this service be a blessing to you  
and may you be a blessing to others this coming week.*

**This Week’s Announcements-  
Life and Faith in Our Community**

**Joys and Concerns and God Moments  
Moment of Meditation**

**Call to Worship**

One: The Spirit leads us into the wilderness, not to abandon us,  
but to reveal who we truly are.

**All: We come seeking truth beyond quick and easy fixes.**

One: In a world that tells us who we should be, God calls us  
beloved.

**All: We come to listen to the voice that names us.**

One: When tempted by power, performance or false promises,  
Jesus shows us another way.

**All: As we worship, quiet the voices that distort our  
identity and strengthen the voice that calls us yours.**

One: We gather to be renewed and to become whole.

**Opening Hymn:** “Jesus, Tempted in the Desert” (VU 115)

**Opening Prayer**

**All: God of the wilderness, you meet us where the ground  
feels uncertain, where old identities crumble. Strip away  
what is false within us. We confess how easily we forget  
who we are. We chase approval that cannot satisfy and  
hunger for things that leave us empty. Teach us again to  
live our true selves, whole, courageous and rooted in your  
love. Amen.**

## A Lenten Candle Liturgy

One: Lent invites us into the wilderness, a sacred space where identity is clarified and love speaks more clearly than fear. Each Sunday leading up to Easter we will extinguish a candle as we approach the impending darkness of Holy Week and Good Friday. Today, as we extinguish our first candle, we release the temptation to define ourselves by what we achieve, control or possess. We release what is not life giving and what does not nourish our souls.

*Our first candle is extinguished by our Light Beamers.*

One: God of Truth guide us inward toward the wholeness you have planted within us. Amen.

## Time with our Light Beamers

*Our young people are taught the values and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, his love and his compassion for all God's people. In turn, they learn to share this love with others at home, at school and in their communities.*

## Congregational Blessing

Light Beamers: "May the peace of Christ be with you".

All: **And also, with you.**

## Morning Anthem: "Come to the Cross"

### WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S LIFE-GIVING WORD

*Our Scripture Reader today is Sue Hicks.*

## Prayer of Illumination

Reader: Let us pray: On this first Sunday of Lent, we reflect the temptations of this world which test our faithfulness to ourselves and to God. Every time we give into temptation we lessen the light of God in our world. May we be inspired by

these holy words of wisdom to make whole and holy choices in our lives. Amen.

## New Testament Reading: Matthew 4: 1-11

*(This is the story of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness. But he remains true to himself and refuses to be seduced by the sirens of wealth, power and privilege. When have we been tempted to take the easy way out in our own lives?)*

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to our hearts.

All: **Amen.**

## Minister's Message

One: Today we are starting our new series called:

*"Becoming Whole: Our Lenten Journey of Transformation."*

Lent is the season of learning to become a little more whole. It can be tempting at times to allow our brokenness to define us. Instead, we can transform our pain and our suffering so we are empowered to be healers in our lives, our relationships and our world.

## Minister's Message: "Finding Our True Self"

## Brief Musical Reflection

### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LIFE-GIVING WORD

## Offering Invitation

One: Our offering is not simply about money; it is a spiritual practice of remembering who we are. We are not defined by what we hold onto, but how we live, how we love, and how we share. So today, we offer not only our gifts but also our true selves seeking to live wholeheartedly in our world today. Let us give with open hearts and put our money where our faith is. Our morning tithes and offerings will now be received.

**Offertory Hymn: “We Are Pilgrims” (VU 595)**

*(Giving as a way of supporting one another’s journey.)*

**All: We are pilgrims on a journey,  
fellow travellers on the road,  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.  
Sister let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you,  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let me be your servant too.**

**Offering Prayer**

**All: Holy One, we offer these gifts and we offer ourselves.  
Plant us again in our true identity as your beloved. May  
what we give today become love in action, hope made  
visible and courage for the journey. Shape us into people  
who live fully alive in you. Amen.**

**Communion Hymn: “Come Touch Our Hearts”  
(MV 12 - verse 5 only)**

**HOLY COMMUNION IS SERVED  
THE BEGINNING OF OUR LENTEN JOURNEY  
TO THE CROSS**

**Invitation to the Table**

**One: Friends in faith, come to this table of sacred shelter.  
Come to this place of healing and renewed strength.**

**Greeting**

**One: May God be with us.**

**All: God is here among us.**

**One: Let us open our hearts to God.**

**All: We open them to God and to one another.**

**One: We give thanks to God for the sharing of Christ’s light and  
love.**

**All: May this bread and cup, be for us a sharing in Christ’s  
life and love for all our human family.**

**The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**The Blessing of the Bread and the Cup**

**Holy Communion is served**

**Prayer following Communion**

**All: For the spiritual bread we have eaten and the cup we  
have tasted we give you thanks Holy One. May this meal  
remind us we are called to BE the church, the body of  
Christ, his hands and heart in our world. Thank you, Holy  
Spirit, for your loving presence in our wilderness  
moments and for showing us how to stay human in hard  
times. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**All: Our Father,  
who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**Closing Hymn:** “Walk with Me” (VU 649)

**Benediction**

One: Go now into your week and release what is false, and step into the truth of who you are: God’s beloved. Walk in courage, speak in love, and let the light of Christ shine through the true self that is you. And may the Spirit who whispers your name go with you now and forever more. Amen.

**Sung Blessing:** “The Celtic Prayer”

**Musical Postlude:** Kyung-A Lee

*Following the Postlude, let us take three minutes to turn and greet one another with signs of Christ’s peace and blessing as we move into a brand-new week.*



*Please join us in Trinity Hall following today’s service where you are invited for a cup of tea or coffee and fellowship time.*

Thank you to our Coffee Hour hosts today MaryAnne and Jamie Mitchell, and Rob and Barb Dalziel.

Come and be part of our growing spiritual community!  
Trinity United Church- The Heart in the Heart of Huntsville!



**Spiritual thought for your week ahead!**

*“Opportunity knocks only once  
but temptation leans on the doorbell.”*

###

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER STUFF!**

**2025 Tax Receipts!**

There are still a few tax receipts for pick up in the Sanctuary. Don’t forget to look for yours.

**The Outreach Team** thanks you for helping to collect food for the Corner Lighthouse Food Bank.

**February is granola bars (no nuts), fruit cups and pudding cups.**

**FundScrip orders are due next week!!**



Order the amount you need for your month’s groceries, gas and gifts and in doing so, Trinity benefits!

Thank you for your support of this fund raiser!

**Therapeutic Touch** – Monday February 23 at 1:30 pm in the Arnold Room. Everyone, members of Trinity or anyone from the community, is invited to attend for a free Therapeutic Touch session.



**Your Communications and Technology Team wants to hear from you!** There are four panels of windows at Trinity, facing West Street. We are looking for ideas/suggestions as to what the congregation would like to see on the windows.

Some suggestions so far include: a sign that fits into half of one of the panels that we can update regularly, seasonal posters/banners.

Please send your suggestions to: [maryanne.e.mitchell@gmail.com](mailto:maryanne.e.mitchell@gmail.com) no later than **Monday February 23, 2026.**

Thank you!



## Bless, Break, Share – Lenten Study 2026

Join us on Tuesdays in Lent to explore your faith through food. We begin on February 24, 2026. In this six-week series, join Rev. Christine Jeffett as she uses the United Church's new Devotional Book "Bless, Break, Share" to guide a time of reflection and discussion on food and hunger throughout Lent.

**All sessions will be Tuesdays from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm.**

Session 1: February 24, 2026 – The Table of Invitation

Session 2: March 3 – The Table of Longing

Session 3: March 10 – The Table of Blessing

Session 4: March 17 – The Broken Table

Session 5: March 24 – The Table of Justice

Session 6: March 31 – The Table of Solidarity

Join us

If anybody is interested, please let Suzy in the office or myself know and we could gather in my office and journey together! Rev. Diane



## God in the Dark — Movie Nights for Meaningful Conversation

Looking for something to pick you up out of the winter doldrums? Join us for *God in the Dark*, a six-week movie series where film, conversation, and community come together.

Starting **Tuesday February 24 at 7:00 PM**, we'll watch engaging movies and share relaxed, open discussions about themes like love, compassion, courage, hope, and the moments that move us. No pressure, no expectations — just a welcoming space to reflect, connect, and explore life's bigger questions together.

Cost: \$5 admission (includes popcorn!)

Come as you are — bring a friend or meet new ones here.

Whether you're curious, reflective, spiritual, or just love good movies and meaningful conversation, you are warmly welcome.

**The Communications & Technology Team is in need of someone to work on our Trinity website.**

Do you have experience working on a website or just want to learn a new skill? Please consider helping out.

If you would like to find out more, please join us on Friday February 27 at 10 am in the Arnold Room.



**World Day of Prayer 2026** – Friday March 6 beginning 1:00 pm at the Salvation Army, 4 Mary Street East.



**Trinity's Annual Meeting** will be held on Sunday, March 1, 2026, in Trinity Hall following worship. Everyone is invited to attend.

The 2025 Annual Report was emailed this past week and is also available on Trinity's website. Limited print copies are available for those who prefer that format.

