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Welcome to Worship
at West Point Grey United Church
February 21, 1999

First Sunday in Lent

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude — *Flute* →

Welcome & Announcements

The Peace:

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you
(Extend a word and sign of peace to another)

Candle Lighting

Call to Worship

One: During Lent the church enters with her Lord deeper and deeper into the shadows of human sin and sorrow, that she may know the fellowship of his suffering.

All: Within the shadows of human sin and sorrow is not where we'd expect to find your peace O God. Have we been looking for you in the wrong place?

Opening Prayer (All):

Come Holy Spirit, steal into our hearts.

If you dwell there we will have eyes to see God loving the world all around us.

If you dwell in us we will find the troubled world slipping off our backs and into our arms.

Come Holy Spirit, YOU be the power of the communion we share now. Amen.

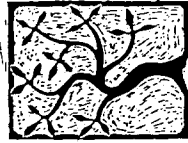
* Hymn: "Come, Holy Ghost" #201

Prayer of Healing

(The choir will be doing an "Amen", composed by Chris Ludwig, at the end of the Prayer of Healing.)

* Indicates those who are able may stand.

Enlarged copies of the hymns are available from an usher.

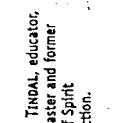
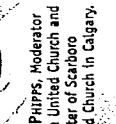
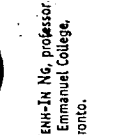
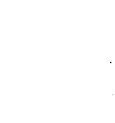
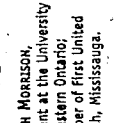
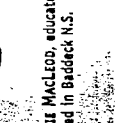
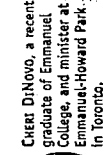


Lentscape

the final days of Jesus' life meets the end of the second millennium
Seven programs (Feb. 15 - Mar. 29, 1999)

"LentScape" is the United Church's Lenten Study Series on television for 1999. These programs take the viewer through the events of Lent, weaving each Biblical story with an issue implicit in the story. The seven-part series will air on Spirit Connection on Vision TV, on Monday nights at 7:30 p.m. (ET) commencing February 15, 1999.

Each Bible story will be introduced by former moderator Robert Smith, with the issue being addressed by the series producer and host Ken Gallinger, and five of the panelists - United Church clergy and lay people pictured below.



Series Stories

Feb. 15 - The Triumphal Entry
Feb. 22 - The Cleansing of the Temple
Mar. 2 - The Footwashing
Mar. 9 - The Betrayal
Mar. 16 - The Trial
Mar. 23 - The Crucifixion
Mar. 30 - The Resurrection

Topics

Feb. 15 - "Is Popularity Worth It?"
Feb. 22 - "When Is Anger Justified?"
Mar. 2 - "How Do We Choose Our Leaders?"
Mar. 9 - "How Do I Know God's Will?"
Mar. 16 - "Is 'Justice' Ever Served?"
Mar. 23 - "What Price Faith?"
Mar. 30 - "Can People Really Change?"

apparently, these ancients thought there was a mystery here that needed explaining

How can something as good as creation get all ~~folded~~ ^{up}?

Such Origens story have a twisted name I've forgotten how did this ^{place} get its name? How did the bear lose its tail?

How come something as good as life got ~~created~~?

accuses set to accuse

~~acc~~ surety between woman kind + snake. Humans are ashamed of their sexuality. Extreme pain ~~and~~ ^{accompanying} child birth - Works a burden instead of a fulfilled unit. This ~~problem~~ ^{problem} needed explaining. We moderns may feel these explanations as silly.

Far fetched.

even primitive

Some of the creases ~~identified~~ ^{identified} kind of quaint. Certainly we may feel Paul's reflection on the material inappropriate -

Because the original person got so we are all condemned.

We moderns, ~~more~~ our enlightenment may think this bit about human depravity is a primitive put down, and need to get it off our backs.

But for many of us there is profound wisdom here. We may dismiss the Genesis explanation as primitive & destructive. But I don't think we can dismiss the fact that SOMETHING needs explaining.

How come a creation that is so
wonderful, good gets caught up in its
own destruction?

Our private & societal lines are entangled
in all kinds of predicaments that were
not the intentions of creation.

If we consider the creation as very good then we cannot truly understand the human condition without seeing it as a fall from creation.

Generosity - wasteful consumption -

Conservation - molecules -

Home & Family - consuming need to be a blameless parent - just what contributes to

What a good gift one becomes a destruction

Money is - medium of exchange -

Speculation By govt & self concerns -

of the whole country's economy

Good it is to widen
great prosperity
More resources

More economic power is removed from
the people affected & less it serves every one
distance between how & how work extended
The Main Power of

The more removed
the more the sensory nerve on ground
— the more ~~the~~ sensitive it is of ^{the} ~~ground~~ ^{the} ~~ground~~
to the life system of the blood
earth

Some show resistance to all this talk
about the FALL & Human depravity
~~arises~~ from our concern that it suppresses
all human effort in a paralysis of guilt.
FREUD greatly helped our understanding here
with his notion of Bad Conscience - ~~that~~^{perhaps it}
~~the~~ Moral self punishment is indeed
paralyzing —

Archival: ~~Mc~~ ^{J.B} Play Modern Day Job
 Ethical Slides - jobs "Confusion"
 — all these suffering — guilt —
Modern Slides :- ^{job results} one of job's confusions
NOT guilty —
 job results —
 NO GUILT - NO RESPONSIBILITY

What is called for by the Unclench and
 The Fall is NOT GUILT. But RESPONSIBILITY
 What is called for — Take Responsibility for
 the human predicament
 rather than evade it —
Right.
Not to be blameless

Math's story of the temptation of
Christ in wilderness

a helpful explanation of how those stones
got there is that the early believers saw
them as issues confronting Jesus as
he considered what was called for in
his living out his life as son of God.

Then early believers came to see ~~him~~^{Jesus} as
a window on God → what was there
about Solomon's proposed choices that
would have distorted the window on God
pulled off ~~these~~^{string of} miracles of abundance
Before astonishing supernatural acts
got on a Power Trip

~~He then couldn't be the~~
~~Window on God~~ window on a God who was
under the burden of the world's sin.

Someone is always paying price
for our fallen state.

Jesus is window on God

That's where God is

That's something
we can see clearly

paying the price

That's the news again & again can
restore in us the power to take responsibility
for the world's ills & ~~convince God~~ ^{under the} burden of the world's sin

That's what will help give us
the intelligence to grasp what is happening
the composure not to be intimidated by
its complexity
and the courage to take steps that
may bear no fruit in our lifetime

Let's read one
more verse of the
Epistle lesson.

BUT WHERE SIN INCREASED
GRACE ABOUNDED ALL THE MORE