

Visions United Spirit Gathering
Lent 5 - March 17, 2024
Wandering Heart: Figuring Out Faith with Peter
Teach Me

* *Stand as able*

Our Community Gathers

Gathering Music/Prelude

Welcome

God's Doors Are Open to All!
Open Doors · Open Minds · Open Hands · Open Hearts
 Visions United seeks to be a safe place for people of all
 races, creeds, ages, cultural backgrounds,
 sexual orientations and gender identities to worship.

Acknowledgement of Land

One: We remember with gratitude
 that we live and worship on lands that are, by law,
 the unceded territories of the Mi'kmaq.
 All: **May we live with respect on this land,
 and in peace and friendship with its people.**

Song (*standing*) VU#395 Come in, come in and sit down (Ref, v1, Ref, v4, Ref)

Words & Music: James Manley 1984, arr. Darryl Nixon ©1987 Songs of the Gospel People.
 All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net#720804

Lighting of the Christ Candle (and candles at each table)

Kindling a Flame for Peace & Sharing the Peace

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

Sharing of WOW Moments

Introduction of the Theme

and an explanation of the mandalas and crayons on each table

This Week's Icon

Gathering Conversation (around the table)

What new thing have you recently learned? A piece of information?

A new word? A new craft or recipe? The solution to a problem?

(Pause for discussion)

Prayer of the Wandering Heart (in unison)

**Holy God, we long to be life-long learners,
 to approach you with curiosity and an open mind.
 Instead we often live as if we know best.
 Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious,**

or assume that we know best.

Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our learning is done
and that we have all the answers.

Spark in us a desire to learn.

May our curiosity carry our faith into deeper waters.

With hope and humility we pray. Amen.

Promise of Grace

We Listen for Wisdom

Video Reflection Figuring Out Faith with Peter – Teach Me

Wisdom Reading Matthew 18:15-22 from The Message read by Carla Bourque

Reflection on Forgiveness

Questions to Discuss (in pairs)

Is there a person or a situation in your life that could use the work of forgiveness?

How could you go about it?

or

Have you ever found the courage to ask for forgiveness from someone?

How did it feel? How did it turn out? Did you experience grace?

(Pause for discussion)

Centering Song (seated) MV#95 How Deep the Peace (2x)

Words: Lynn Bauman©2000

Music: Linnea Good©2004 Borealis Music. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net#720804

“Seventy-seven Times” Mandala

Exercise with Hyacinth stickers

(Pause)

Teach Me Prayer (in unison)

Adapted from a poem by Rev. Sarah Speed, sanctifiedart.org

Teach me

about the ways of the wind,
about the ways of the world,
about the ways of the heart.

Teach me about forgiveness,
about the language of *I'm sorry*
and the softness of sincerity.

Teach me about abundance,
about *seventy-times-seven*,
and *all the days of my life*.

Teach me about joy,
about its contagious weaving
and its soul-healing.

Teach me about mercy,
about open hands
and deep breaths.

Teach me what matters most.

Teach me what is mine to do
until I run out of questions
or I run out of days.
Then I will have a life well-lived.

Song (*seated*) VU#364 Forgive Our Sins

Words: Rosamond Herklots 1966

Music: William Horsley 1830 Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense,net#72080

We Respond with Prayer and Gratitude

Our Community at Prayer

Invitation to Generosity & Blessing of Our Gifts (*Gifts brought forward during singing*)

Sung Dedication VU#538 For the Gift of Creation

Words & Music: Steve Garnaas-Holmes

©1991 Abingdon Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE A-720804

The Work of the Congregation – Announcements

We Go Forth to Be a Blessing

Closing Conversation (around the table)

What new thing have you learned today?

What insight from the service will you take home?

***Song** (*standing*) VU#266 Amazing Grace (vs 1,2,4 and 5)

Words: John Newton 1779

Music: Virginia Harmony 1831. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense,net#720804

Blessing & Changing of the Light

Postlude Music for the Journey

Thank You for Joining Us!

May Each of Us Carry the Spirit into the world with us.