**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**PREACHER: Rev. Emmanuel K. Ofori**

**\*** You are invited to stand if comfortable doing so

VU = Voices United MV = More Voices

*We welcome Paula Thomas as our Music Leader this morning.*

*Jody will be back next Sunday!*

***We Gather Together***

***Choral Prelude***

*Halle, Halle, Halle, Halle-lujah, Ha-lle-lujah*

*Halle, Halle, Halle, Halle-lujah, Ha-lle-lujah*

*Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah Praise the Lord*

*Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah Praise the Lord*

***Opening Prayer***

***\*Hymn:*** VU #266 *“Amazing grace”*

***Lighting of the Christ Candle***

***Passing of the Peace*** (VU 958 “Halle, Halle, Halle”)

***Welcome***

***Life and Work of the Church*** (see insert)

***We Draw Near to Worship***

***Call to Worship***

One: God loves us with a steadfast love.
**All: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!**
One: God loves us so much he gave us his Son.
**All: Let us believe and have eternal life!**
One: God loves us with a great love, rich in mercy.
**All: Let us have faith to receive this grace!**
One: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good ...

**All: All the time**

One: And all the time …

**All: God is good.**

***Silence***

***Prayers of the Faithful***

***Intercessory Prayer***

We have prayed all these through Christ Jesus our Lord; He is the One who taught us to pray saying … “**Our Father …”**

***The Lord’s Prayer***

***Circle Time*** *(with the Children)*

***\* Children’s Hymn of Praise:*** VU#365 “*Jesus Loves Me*”

***We Listen for God’s Word***

***Scripture Readings***

Old Testament: Numbers 21:4–9

Reader: This is the Work of God

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading: John 3:14-21

Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ

**All: We praise you, O Christ.**

***\* Hymn of Preparation:*** VU #669 “*Jesus, Lover of My Soul*”

***The Message:* “**Shining for All to See”

***We Respond in Love***

***Offering***

***Doxology***

***Offertory Prayer***

***We Go Out to Serve***

***\*Closing Hymn:*** VU# 585 “*Jesus bids us shine*”

***\* Benediction***

***\* Triple Amen***

***\* Commissioning Hymn:*** MV#209 “*Go make a difference*”

***\* Musical Postlude***

**TODAY’S MESSAGE**

There are times we find ourselves in a desert without enough to live on, no food or water, or we may find ourselves living in a state we detest … However,

“*as Moses lifted up the bronze* ***snake*** *on a pole in the wilderness, so the* ***Son of Man*** *must be lifted up, so that* ***everyone*** *who believes in him will have eternal life …But those who do what is right come to the* ***light,*** *so others can see that they are doing what God wants*”

(John 3:14-15, 21)

1. *As the* ***SNAKE*** *was lifted up in the Wilderness …*
2. *… so the* ***SAVIOUR*** *will be lifted up on the Cross …*
3. *… For the* ***SINNER*** *to be lifted out of life’s Wilderness …*
4. *… and to* ***SHINE*** *in this world of darkness*

**Think about this:**

* Salvation in Christ Jesus is personal, but not private.
* You have been saved to do “good works” (Ephesians 2:10). You are called to shine in this dark world of sin. How has your light been shining at home, office or at the public square?

**First United Church**

*Seeking to be a welcoming community of Christian faith, proclaiming and celebrating the love of God in Jesus Christ through the Inspiration of the Holy Spirit*

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*Sunday, March 11, 2018*

*10:30am*

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*MINISTERS: ALL THE PEOPLE OF GOD*

*Pastoral Minister: Rev. Emmanuel K. Ofori*

*Music Minister: Jody McDonald-Groulx*

*Secretary/Treasurer: Lori Hoffman*

*Custodian: Dave Luftenegger*