

Everything will  
be okdy.  
I promise.  
~ God

## **Britannia United Church**

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## Britannia United Church

Lent II

10:15 a.m.

March 12, 2017

**Meditation:** “Don't wait till you know the source of the wind before you let it refresh you, or its destination before you spread sail to it. It offers what you need; trust yourself to it.”

- William Temple, 1881-1944

**Welcome:** to Britannia United Church. Our **nursery** is always available to children three years of age and younger. It is at the end of the hall by the office. **Headsets** are available for those who need assisted hearing. Please speak to our sound technician. **Coffee and Tea** are available at the back of the church, after the service. Please read along if text is **bold** and *italic*.

### We Gather in God's Name

**Introit:** Spirit of Gentleness (375, vs. 1)  
Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,  
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,  
stir me from placidness,  
Wind, Wind on the sea.

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,  
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;  
and over the eons you called to each thing:  
wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,  
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,  
stir me from placidness,  
Wind, Wind on the sea.

## **Announcements**

**Prelude:** God, Wonderful for Always/Dieu, merveilleux pour toujours

**Written by:** Franci-Lynka, in English and French, to the music of David Charles Damon (Hymn #366, in Voices United)

**Accompanied by:** Helen Hutcheson

**Call to Worship:** (based on Psalm 121)

O Lord our God, we gather from the valleys of life,  
rising up from the deep shadows of our troubles:

***To worship in the bright light of God's presence.***

We gather to worship the steadfast God, who  
helps us overcome our fears and superstitions:

***To worship in the protecting presence of God.***

We gather to worship the watchful God, whose  
attention never wavers, and whose care is eternal:

***Come, let us worship our God, who is more dependable  
than the mountains, and more reliable than the sunrise.***

***Amen.***

\* **Hymn:** Will You Come and Follow Me (567)

**Prayer of Confession:**

In these days of information overload,  
we need to look and listen deeply  
for the call of the Spirit in our midst.

Enlightening Spirit,  
when we get discouraged in seeking your Truth  
in the midst of bewilderment,

***Have mercy, and clear our eyes***

Challenging Spirit, when witnessing to your Truth  
seems to take more courage than we have,

***Have mercy, and strengthen our determination***

Surprising Spirit, when we settle for half-truths  
in building your Beloved Community,  
***Have mercy, and show us a better way.***

*(Silence)*

We know the love of God knows no bounds,  
The Holy One who sent Jesus, the Only Begotten,  
to be our Way, our Truth and our Light.

Let us feel ourselves forgiven,  
and go forth with courage renewed.

***Thanks be to God!***

**Sung Response:**

**Spirit, spirit of gentleness,  
blow through the wilderness calling and free,  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,  
stir me from placidness,  
Wind, Wind on the sea.**

**Anthem:** Grateful

**Theme Presentation**

**Minute for Mission** Wendy Gallant

**We Hear God's Word**

**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 121 (OT, pg. 571, Don Judd)

**Message:** Devotion, Trust, Grace and Love  
Genesis 12:1-4a, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17

\* **Hymn:** Be Thou My Vision (642)

## **We Respond to God**

### **Prayers of Joy and Concern and The Lord's Prayer**

#### **Offertory**

\* **Doxology**: (541)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God all creatures high and low;  
give thanks to God in love made known:  
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

\* **Offertory Prayer**:

God of unwavering love,  
you have held nothing back  
in your love for us,  
not even your Son.

***How we marvel at that kind of love,  
and how we long to reflect a portion  
of that devotion back to you.***

***As we dedicate our offerings to you,  
lead us away from our tendency  
to hold back and worry  
that there will not be enough.***

***Help us to live as the people  
of love and abundance  
you have called us to be.***

***In Christ, we pray. Amen.***

(John 3:1-17)

\* **Hymn**: If You Will Trust in God to Guide You (286)

#### **Lenten Call to a Holy fast and a Holy Feast**

And so I call us to a holy fast...and a holy feast  
in each day of this Lenten season ahead.

*Let us...*

***Fast from emphasis on differences  
and feast on the unity of life,  
fast from hostility  
and feast on tenderness,  
fast from anger  
and feast on empathy.***

**\* Commissioning and Benediction:**

God's love calls us into community to bless us.  
God's love sends us out into the wider community  
to be a blessing!

***Let us go forth from here in peace,  
Bringing the blessing of God our Creator,  
Jesus Christ, our Wounded Healer,  
and Uncontainable Holy Spirit. Amen!***

**\* Sung Response: Spirit of Gentleness (375, vs. 4)**

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,  
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,  
stir me from placidness,  
Wind, Wind on the sea.

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,  
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams,  
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,  
with bold new decisions your people arise.

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,  
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,  
stir me from placidness,  
Wind, Wind on the sea.

**Postlude**