

**BULLETIN NOTATIONS**

**VU**-Voices United Hymn Book | **MV**-More Voices Hymn Book  
Music printed & streamed with permission  
under CCLI #1293009 & #20808245  
\* *Indicates to please stand, if able*

Jesus says, "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, they will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

During the forty days of Lent, the Christian Church prepares to observe the Lord's passion and resurrection. We examine ourselves as we remember the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf. In this season of repentance and fasting, we come to terms with our mortality and need for God's mercy. The candles on this cross represent Jesus' 'I Am' statements. Each week we extinguish another candle, remembering how we, the human race, rejected Jesus Christ's claim of who He is: "The light of the world."

So far we have extinguished the light of two candles reminding us that Jesus said "I Am the Good Shepherd" and "I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life." Today,

Jesus says "I AM The Door."

**We extinguish the third candle, as we remember the times when we have given into the temptation to keep the door to our hearts, kardia, our innermost being, closed to the entrance of Jesus who wants to come in and do a work of transformation in us, even as we try to change ourselves all by ourselves, trusting only in ourselves.**

**The light dims, the shadows lengthen and we add to the darkness each time we open our doors to many other influences before we welcome Jesus, sometimes as a last resort.**

Let us acknowledge our need for forgiveness.

**Most merciful God,**

**we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,**

**by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;**

**we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,**

**have mercy on us and forgive us;**

**that we may delight in your will,**

**and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

**\*HYMN HWC 206: "There Is a Redeemer" (vs. 1,2)**

1 There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

Refrain

Thank You, oh, my Father, for giving us Your Son,  
and leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.

2 Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, O for sinners slain. Refrain

LAY READER: *Stephen Bronn*

**RESPONSIVE PSALM 37 - VU pg. 763**

GOSPEL LESSON: John 10: 1-15

'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

‘When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.’

Let us hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR ANTHEM: “Be Joyful Together” – *arr. H. Hopson*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

**\*SUNG RESPONSE:** HWC 621

**We cannot give without receiving  
So much more than we have given.  
God’s ways are wonderful,  
God’s ways are wonderful.**

**\*OFFERING PRAYER:** *(in unison)*

**Gracious and benevolent God,  
we give You praise for Your great generosity to us.  
Since we are made in Your image,  
may we be known as a generous people.  
Bless these gifts we pray  
that come not only from our hands  
but from our hearts.  
In Your hands may they express Your love.  
In Jesus’ Name, Amen.**

PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE – *Rev Dr. Garry van Bruchem*

**THE LORD’S PRAYER:** *(sung - VU 959)*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil  
for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.**

**\*HYMN VU 657:** “He Leadeth Me”

MESSAGE: “Important Doors”

**\*CLOSING HYMN VU 506:** “Take My Life and Let It Be”

**\*BLESSING:**

The God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The One who calls you is faithful and He will do this.

POSTLUDE

**LARGE PRINT HYMNS and RESPONSIVE READINGS**  
are available on the pew as you enter the sanctuary.

**AFTER WORSHIP**, everyone is invited to stay  
for refreshments and fellowship  
in the Board Room & Friendship Room on the lower level.

**PRAYER LIST**

As we face life’s challenges, we are encouraged by those who surround us with their prayers. If you would like your name to appear on the prayer list, please tell the minister or a member of the Pastoral Care Committee.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WE WELCOME** our Fenwick United Church friends to our worship service today and the Rev Dr. Garry van Bruchem. Everyone is invited to stay for fellowship and refreshments after the service.



**TIME CHANGE:** Daylight Saving Time begins on March 10. Remember to turn your clocks forward one hour Saturday evening, **March 9**.

**FONTHILL COUNCIL** will hold a special council meeting on Monday March 4 at 1:00 pm.

**FONTHILL ANNUAL MEETING** will be held after worship on Sunday, March 10. Please plan to attend.

**TAIZÉ SERVICES AT FENWICK UNITED:** Mid-week Lenten services in the Taizé style will be offered on Thursdays March 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 6:30 pm. Taizé services combine music and silence, scripture and contemplation, and last about half an hour. Everyone is welcome.

**FOOD DRIVE FOR PELHAM CARES** will be held in the Fonthill United Church parking lot on Saturday March 23 from 10 am - 12 pm. Food items, as well as cleaning and personal care items, will be gratefully accepted. If making a donation by cheque, please make the cheque payable to Fonthill United Church. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy a visit with your friends at Fonthill United.

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE** will be held at Central United Church in Welland on March 29 at 10:00 am, with the choirs of the four United churches singing.

**EASTER DAFFODILS:** On Easter Sunday at Fonthill United, we plan to decorate the sanctuary with live daffodils. If you would like to make a donation and have a daffodil placed in the sanctuary in memory of a loved one, please call the church office (905 892-6433) or email to: [fonthilu@vaxxine.com](mailto:fonthilu@vaxxine.com).



**LETTER RECEIVED FOR FONTHILL UNITED:**

Please accept our appreciation for your recent gift of hygiene bags in support of our Nightlight Youth Services Program. BGC Niagara relies on community support to deliver a variety of programs and transformative experiences that are accessible, reliable, and open to all.

We believe that “Opportunity Changes Everything” and your support will provide children and youth with opportunities to develop skills and confidence for life that promotes their wellbeing.

*Most sincerely,*

*David D’Addio, President, Boys and Girls Club of Niagara*

**THE WEEK AHEAD AT FONTHILL UNITED**

Monday Mar 4	8:00 am	Montessori Preschool
	1:00 pm	Special Council Meeting
	4:30 pm	Music Lessons
	6:30 pm	Pickle Ball
	7:00 pm	Venturers & Rovers
Tuesday Mar 5	8:00 am	Montessori Preschool
	9:00 am	Badminton
	2:00 pm	Music Lessons
	4:00 pm	Music Lessons (Friendship Rm.)
	4:45 pm	Sportball
Wed. Mar 6	6:00 pm	A Cappella Niagara Practice
	8:00 am	Montessori Preschool
	9:30 am	Trustees Meeting
Thursday Mar 7	3:30 pm	Music Lessons
	6:00 pm	Cubs & Beavers
	8:00 am	Montessori Preschool
	9:00 am	Badminton
	2:00 pm	Music Lessons
Friday Mar 8	3:00 pm	Choir Practice
	8:00 am	Montessori Preschool
	1:00 pm	Music Lessons
Saturday Mar 9	6:30 pm	Pickle Ball
	11:00 am	Music Lessons
Sunday Mar 10	9:30 am	Worship Service – LENT 4
	10:30 am	Annual Meeting

**TO MAKE A DONATION TO FONTHILL UNITED CHURCH,  
YOU ARE WELCOME TO:**

- 1) Mail a cheque to the church at: Fonthill United Church, Box 926, Fonthill ON LOS 1E0.
- 2) Drop your cheque donation, anytime, through the mail slot in the exterior office door at the church.
- 3) Bring cash donations into the office when the church office is open.
- 4) Send an e-transfer to: [fonthilu@vaxxine.com](mailto:fonthilu@vaxxine.com).
- 5) Sign up for the pre-authorized remittance program (PAR). Contact the church office to register.

***Donations on Sundays may be placed in the offering plate at the entrance to the sanctuary. We thank you for your support!***

# Fonthill United Church

## March 3, 2024

### Lent 3

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

Words inspire us. Music uplifts us.  
United in God's love,  
we strive to be an inclusive community,  
learning together and supporting others with compassion.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Church Office ..... 905 892-6433  
Office Email ..... [fonthilu@vaxxine.com](mailto:fonthilu@vaxxine.com)  
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