**

Alberni Valley United Church

April 3, 2022 11:30 AM (Lent 5)

*Upcoming Zoom Meetings & Gatherings:*

April 5th Zoom Gentle Yoga 10:00 am

 April 5th  Chair Yoga 11:30 am

April 30: Plant & Bake Sale - Now is the time to take cuttings of your plants for our plant sale.

The Affirm Team are holding several upcoming events:

* Sunday April 3, 2022 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm - Lunch and Learn
* Friday April 8, 2022 Alberni Valley Pride Movie Night
* Friday May 13, 2022 Alberni Valley Pride Game Night

Rev. Ed is in Port Alberni Fridays. Please email: reved@telus.net to make an appointment.

**AVUC Choir**: Choir rehearsals Sunday mornings at 9:45 am. If you love to sing, please join us.

The Book Store is open on Thurs & Friday from 9am to 1 pm and Saturday from noon to 4 pm.

Choir Director: Mike Villette Church Accompanist: Ellen Vander Putten Rev. Ed Lewis, Tech Team Leader: Dewayne Parfitt

Email: avunitedchurch@shaw.ca Website: www.albernivalleyuc.com

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/albernivalleyuc](http://www.facebook.com/albernivalleyuc)

Alberni Valley United Church

April 3, 2022

Gathering

**Prelude:**

**Welcome/Announcements:**

**Birthdays & Anniversaries:**

**Acknowledgement of Territory:**

**Extinguishing One Candle:**

We Listen for the Word of God

**Opening Prayer: (together)**

**Holy One, Word of Life, in these days of Lent, lead us through the wilderness where nothing seems familiar and into places where we become aware of Your call in our lives. Lead us in our time of worship, where we can rediscover the rich gifts of faith that can restore our souls and give us hope for the weeks ahead.**

**Our loving Creator, in this season of Lent, remind us that we are Yours. A Daughter or Son of the most High God. And then teach us once again, what it means to take up our cross, and follow Jesus. Receive our worship and praise this day. We ask in Jesus’ name. AMEN**

**Opening Hymn:** Hymn #20 VU “On Jordan’s Bank” Verses 1, 2, 3 &5

**Responsive Reading**: Psalm 126

**Time with the Young and the Young at Heart:** Video of Baptism

**Special Music (Choir):**

**Prayers of the People**

**Scripture Reading :** Mark 1:1-12

**Sermon : IDENTITY**

**We Respond**

**Hymn:** MVU #194 “Bread of Life, Feed My Soul”

**Prayer of Confession: (together)**

**Merciful God, what a blessing it is to come to You with our secret thoughts and shortcomings, and find You here to listen, to forgive, and to renew us. We confess our hesitancy to follow Jesus, especially when he calls us to examine our hearts and our ways. So many times, we are greedy and self-centered. So many times, we have given in to our fears and prejudices and thereby failed to love others as Jesus calls us to.**

**O God, help us to remember Your loving-kindness, shown to us now and in the past. Empower us to empty ourselves of all that holds us back, trusting that You will fill us with what we need. In the name of Jesus, who showed us the path of emptying oneself and letting go. Amen.**

**Silent Confession/Assurance of Pardon:**

We Go Forth

**Offering:** **(together)**

**Patient and empowering God, bless these gifts we bring before You today. May You use them for Your purposes in the world. Bless our lives with Your Holy touch so our lives might shine in this time of uncertainty and darkness in the world. Guide us so that hope and joy might prevail where despair has taken hold. Allow compassion to flood our souls so that we become gifts to a hurting world. With love for You, we humbly ask that our gifts may be a blessing that travels far and wide. Through Christ we pray. AMEN**

**Closing Hymn:** MVU #82 “Bathe Me in Your Light”



*Thank you for attending Sunday Worship. Hope to see you next week!*