

# stone catchers

stones of fear

Message by Rev. Lora Andrews

March 29, 2020

**10:00am**

Love

**Welcome**

Rev. Lora Andrews

**†Greeting Each Other**

**†Call to Worship**

by Andrea Murdock

Leader: Each of us brings fears with us to worship today.

**People: We fear the present. We fear the future. We fear for the people we love.**

Leader: We protect ourselves when we are afraid by throwing stones at others' weaknesses.

**People: But Jesus tells us, "Do not be afraid."**

Leader: It is God who sustains us through our worry and anxiety.

**People: Guide our hearts, Holy Spirit, that we might receive your comfort.**

**†Opening Hymn**

"In This Very Room"  
Jackson Thomas, Song Leader

**In this very room there's quite enough love for one like me,  
and in this very room there's quite enough joy for one like me.  
And there's quite enough hope and quite enough pow'r  
to chase away any gloom. For Jesus, Lord Jesus, is in this very room.**

**In this very room there's quite enough love for all of us,  
and in this very room there's quite enough joy for all of us.  
And there's quite enough hope and quite enough pow'r  
to chase away any gloom. For Jesus, Lord Jesus, is in this very room.**

**In this very room there's quite enough love for all the world,  
and in this very room there's quite enough joy for all the world.  
And there's quite enough hope and quite enough pow'r  
to chase away any gloom. For Jesus, Lord Jesus, is in this very room.**

**†Affirmation of Faith**    A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada    Red #883

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:**

**who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the church:**

**to celebrate God's presence,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.**

**We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*By permission of The United Church of Canada*

**†Sung Response**                                    "Glory Be to the Father"                                    Red #70

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever and shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

**Special Music**

**"Fear Is a Liar"  
Loren Bridge, Soloist**

*Williams, Ingram, Smith*

## Matthew 23:37-39

<sup>37</sup>“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>38</sup>See, your house is left to you, desolate. <sup>39</sup>For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

*New Revised Standard Version*

### Message

“Stones of Fear”

### Congregational Song

“10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)”

*Myrin, Redman*

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship his holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship your holy name.**

**The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning, it's time to sing your song again.  
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,  
let me be singing when the evening comes.**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship his holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship your holy name.**

**You're rich in love and you're slow to anger.  
Your name is great and your heart is kind.  
For all your goodness, I will keep on singing;  
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship his holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship your holy name.**

**And on that day, when my strength is failing,  
the end draws near, and my time has come;  
still, my soul will sing your praise unending  
ten thousand years and forevermore!**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship his holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship your holy name.**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship his holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship your holy name,  
worship your holy name, Lord, I'll worship your holy name.**

**Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship your holy name,  
worship your holy name, worship your holy name.**

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God,  
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have failed to be an obedient church.  
We have not done your will,  
we have broken your law,  
we have rebelled against your love,  
we have not loved our neighbors,  
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.  
We have thrown stones instead of catching them.  
Forgive us, we pray.  
Free us for joyful obedience,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Assurance**

**Leader: Hear the good news:  
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;  
that proves God's love toward us.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**  
**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**  
**All: Glory to God. Amen.**

### **Music/Candlelighting**

#### **A Time of Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

### **Serve**

#### **Offertory**

**"I Shall Not Walk Alone"  
Jackson Thomas, Soloist**

*Ben Harper*

†Doxology

“O Bless the Gifts”

O bless the gifts our hands have brought;  
and bless the work our hearts have planned.  
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought; the rest, O God, is in your hand.

†Offertory Prayer

†Closing Hymn

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Red #298

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

†Blessing and Sending Forth

†Sung Benediction

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian,” vs. 1

Red #402

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

†Indicates standing as you are comfortable

St. Paul's Mission Statement: *LOVE God and all others unconditionally;*  
*SEEK answers to our questions;*  
*SERVE God by serving others.*