

Watch this week's service on YouTube by clicking: [February 21 Worship Service Video](#)

- Join the **HeBrews eCafé on Zoom** Sunday at 10am for an hour of informal fellowship.
Link: <https://zoom.us/j/98193600858?pwd=K0IIOWMOZWdsRmhUTkNWcmFvbkM5Zz09>
Phone in: 1 204 272 7920
Meeting ID: 981 9360 0858
Passcode: 438120

- **Lenten Study** - *Faith On The Move* - Thursdays at 7:00.
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/96227374307pwd=Q0xkRFpkemdtVDBZdHZIVVFWODU4QT09>
Meeting ID: 962 2737 4307
Passcode: 677320
Phone in option: 204 272 7920

- A new Church School video has been posted: https://youtu.be/Wv-1ECfKJ_4

- For news and events please have a look at **Life & Work**: <https://charleswoodunited.org/media/life-work/>

- You can **donate** to the ministry of Charleswood United Church by visiting: www.charleswoodunited.org/donate
Thank you for your generous support.

- Read the scripture lesson for today by clicking here: [Genesis 9:8-17](#)

- Please enjoy our online worship and feel free to share with others. The link for sharing is:
<https://youtu.be/OCZhlayUrHg>

Dear Friends

Welcome to worship for Sunday, February 21, 2021.

And so we have entered Lent.

The truth is that we don't come to Lent with a lot of fanfare and ceremony. Certainly nothing like the way we approach Advent, the other penitential and preparatory season in the church calendar. When that season comes we are very eager to put out decorations, share the baking, and sing the songs we reserve for that time of the year.

I suspect it has a little to do with geography. Because Advent comes to us when the days are getting shorter and the nights are getting colder and winter is settling in, it is only natural to rejoice at the arrival of a distraction that lifts the spirits and anticipates new life. Lent on the other hand is a little counter-intuitive. Lent calls for quiet reflection just when we are ready to shout for joy at the lengthening of sunlight (lent and length have the same word origin) and the warming of our days with the first hints of spring. And besides, other than hot crossed buns, there are not a lot of awesome Lenten recipes.

But the real reason that we enter Lent gently and with a degree of solemnity is theological. Advent leads us to birth while Lent invariably leads us to death. And who wants to celebrate a path we would ordinarily not choose to walk. Lent is an invitation to reflect on a terrible and disturbing truth, namely that the consequence of loving without fault, accepting without exception, and healing without fail is meeting a resistance so threatened by grace and mercy that it puts the loving, accepting, and healing One to death. For this is the tragedy of the story of Jesus. The principalities and powers of this world are not in fact dissuaded to give up their death dealing ways even by an example of perfect love.

It is right that we should enter Lent without fanfare and celebration. The time of rejoicing will come. For now it is time to heed the wisdom of the psalmist, "Be still and know, that I am God." (Ps 46:10). I hope you will journey with us. For if we walk through Lent prayerfully and purposefully we will discover the verdict rendered on the resisting principalities and powers on the far side of the cross.

And my oh my, will the trumpets fanfare sound.

Grace and peace,

Michael