Keswick & Ravenshoe Pastoral Charge

Minister: Rev. Calin Lau   VAM: Rev. Dianne Graves
Music Director: Stephen Riches (KUC) & Kathy Anderson (RUC)
Property Manager: Ralph Cox (KUC)   Office Secretary: Sandra Dickinson
VU – Voices United Hymnbook **MV** – More Voices

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Prelude

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Announcements – today is Ravenshoe's AGM done by Zoom at 1pm. Please have Keswick reports in by end of Jan. Thank you.

Pass the Peace
Peace be with you.
And also with you.

Introit

Lighting of the Christ candle
We light this candle as a symbol of the light of Christ, which cannot be held back by distance, which shines in each one of us, no matter where we are.

Singing of the Lord's Prayer VU 959

Call to Worship
Spirit is upon, within, and all around us.
With hearts open to receive the good news of God's good ways.
Let us worship God.

Hymn: VU 264   Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (v.1, 2, 3)

Gathering Prayer *(unison)*

We long for news that is good, O God – good for this earth, good for our hearts, good for communities. Teach us to listen for your good news about those ways you have set before us, exemplified for us, and called forth from us, in Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Ministry of Music

Responsive Scripture: Psalm 19   VU 740-741 Refrain 1

Hymn: VU 402   We Are One (v. 1, 2, 3)

Scripture Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10 (NRSV) *Jack Wilson*

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep."

For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for

this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."
This is the Word of God.
Thanks be to God.

Reflection "Spirited Voice?"

Hymn: VU 690 From the Slave Pens of the Delta (v. 1, 2, 4)

We Give and Receive our Offering
May our giving this morning bring love to the parts of Christ's body that are feeling unloved and forgotten; and may it bring justice and mercy to those parts that are oppressed and burdened.

Offertory Hymn: VU 540 Grant Us, God, the Grace

Prayer of Dedication (unison)
O Great Dreamer: inspire us in your ways, that in our imaginings, hopes, and prayers, we become the fulfillment of all that is possible in our world, our neighborhood, this place, and in each of us. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Hymn: MV 154 Deep in Our Hearts (v. 1, 2, 3)

*Commissioning and Blessing
We have heard God's words and trust that the Spirit is upon us.
May we be inspired to be a living fulfillment of all that is possible with God.
Amen.

Hymn: Go Now In Peace   Postlude

Churches will be closed to in-person worship until Mar. 6/22.

Keswick & Ravenshoe

United Church
Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 23rd, 2022
Rev. Calin Lau