

## CONNECT GROUP – FEBRUARY 23, 2026

### Introduction and welcome

Everyone is welcome whenever you can attend, even if only now and then. The Connect group is a time to get to know each other and have some (hopefully) meaningful discussion.

### Opening prayer

Creator God, Redeeming Lord and Sustaining Spirit, teach us to live a life of righteousness and to strive always for justice in your world. Strengthen our hearts, our minds, and our souls, so we can take your holy lessons, which we learn as we gather together in worship with your words, out into the broken world first to heal ourselves and then to offer hope and healing to others. For the great blessings and gifts of abundance you bestow upon us, we thank you, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

### Sharing – how things are going for each of us

This is a time to share what is happening with us, if people are comfortable doing this.

### Scripture reading from February 22 (First Sunday of Lent)

#### Amos 5:21–24

<sup>21</sup> I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

<sup>22</sup> Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon.

<sup>23</sup> Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

<sup>24</sup> But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

#### Luke 4:16–21

<sup>16</sup> Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
Because he has anointed me  
To proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
And recovery of sight for the blind,  
To set the oppressed free,

<sup>19</sup> To proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

<sup>20</sup> Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him.

<sup>21</sup> He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

## Discussion points

- In his homily, Lance Wilson, ODT, spoke about the capitalist structures which commoditize housing across price ranges and use unjust evictions with disproportionate impact on racialized communities. How is the question housing justice linked to the message from the Prophet Amos and the Gospel according to Luke which quotes from the Prophet Isaiah?
- Jesus spoke in the synagogue by reading from the scroll of the Prophet Isaiah. How did Isaiah's words sound to the ears of those hearing them in the synagogue? How are they consistent with the overall Gospel message of Jesus?
- Thinking about our country and our communities, where should there be more justice? What do we envision when we think of righteousness? What would the year of our Lord's favour look like in today's world?
- Lance also spoke directly about the parish of St. George on Yonge and building community, disciples and leadership to bring the church from a period of diocesan administration to the direction under Wardens of the church. How do difficult times in our communities and in our churches form us and how do we find hope for the future?
- The Prophet Amos tells us that God does not want solemn assemblies, our noisy songs, or sacrifices, he desires a world of justice and righteousness. How can our church be place that turns our prayerful assembly and soulful songs into a faith community that seeks justice and righteousness in our neighbourhood and in the wider world?
- How can we deepen our formation as Christian disciples to follow the path shown by the Prophets, here Amos and Isaiah, and the Way of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ? What does it take to become people of peace who seek justice and righteousness in a world that does not seem to honour these values.

## Closing prayer

Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, your loving community in holy Trinity call us to love and serve you with all our body, mind, and spirit, to love and steward your creation and to love and serve all our siblings in Christ. Open our hearts to be filled with your spirit of compassion and loving-kindness, so the world may know we follow you through the love we show. This we pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**Let us connect again on Monday, March 9, 2026**