



MOVIES FOR LENT



DIOCESE OF ALGOMA
The Anglican Church of Canada



THORNELOE
UNIVERSITY

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT, Film: *The Truman Show* (1998), Theme: Revelation, Scripture: John 9:1–41

Introduction: On the Fourth Sunday in Lent, the Gospel presents the healing of the man born blind—a story about sight, misunderstanding, and the unsettling nature of revelation. In John 9, Jesus restores physical sight while also exposing the spiritual blindness of those convinced that they already see clearly.

The Truman Show offers a compelling contemporary parable of revelation. Truman lives inside a carefully constructed reality, unaware that his entire existence is staged and observed. As cracks begin to appear in the world around him, he must decide whether to remain within the safety of illusion or step into the uncertainty of truth.

Lent is a season of illumination. It invites us to examine the narratives we accept, the assumptions we carry, and the ways we may prefer comfort over truth. *The Truman Show* challenges us to consider what it means to awaken—to see differently—and to follow that revelation wherever it leads.

Discussion Questions

1. After viewing *The Truman Show*, what thoughts and impressions lingered after the credits rolled? Why?
2. From a cinematic perspective, what did you enjoy about the film? What worked well? What did not?
3. Of the many themes *The Truman Show* explores, one is determinism versus free will. In the film, how is Christof a caricature of a controlling deity, with Truman portraying the “True-Man” seeking to liberate his world in Christlike fashion?
4. In this week’s Gospel reading, we engage the story of Jesus healing a man born blind (John 9). With the Pharisees stuck in a faulty worldview and limited explanations for the man’s condition, Jesus disrupts their presuppositions. In your faith journey, what unhelpful beliefs have you set aside in favour of more Christlike ideas and practices?

How to Access This Film

The Truman Show (1998) is available through the following legal streaming and rental options in Canada: Preferred Streaming Option Paramount+ Free 7-day trial available for new subscribers, Rent / Buy: Apple TV, Amazon Prime Video, Rent: \$4.99, Buy: \$19.99. Availability and pricing may vary by region and over time. For additional options or to check availability in other countries, www.justwatch.com/ca is a helpful tool for locating where films can be streamed, rented, or purchased legally.

About Movies for Lent

Movies for Lent is a Lenten film series curated by The Rev. Jason Tripp, President of Thorneloe University, in partnership with the Diocese of Algoma. Each film is paired with a central theological theme and Scripture from the lectionary, inviting viewers into reflection and conversation at the intersection of faith, culture, and lived experience.

Film Credit: *The Truman Show* (1998), Directed by Peter Weir, © 1998 Paramount Pictures, Used for educational and discussion purposes only.