



# Sunset United Church

February 12, 2023



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*Sunset United, located on Treaty 4 Territory,  
is an Affirming community of faith.  
All are welcome here.*

## Welcome & Announcements

## Centering Time

## Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

One: May the love of God be with you all!

**All: And also with you!**

One: You have heard it said that God is loving,

**All: But we know that this love is boundless**

One: You have heard it said that God is forgiving

**All: But we know that there is nothing that can separate us from God's grace**

One: You have heard it said that Christ is with us when two or three are gathered

**All: And so we gather as a community of faith, to celebrate, seek wisdom, and be inspired to share the Good News!**

One: Let us pray:

**All: Holy God, you are the source of our being, the universal heart from which all love is born, and the reason for our worship. As we enter into the holy community may we be reminded that your law is a gift, a key to unlocking the door to heaven on earth. We pray for your wisdom and in return, we pledge our eyes to watch for the face of Christ in our neighbours and we pledge our hands to carry out the work you lay before us.**

**We pray to you who is our mother and 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, the power and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**Hymn** MV#79 Spirit, Open My Heart<sup>1</sup>

*Refrain* **Spirit, open my heart  
to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love,  
in receiving and in giving.  
Spirit, open my heart.**

**God, replace my stony heart  
with a heart that's kind and tender.  
All my coldness and fear  
to your grace I now surrender.**

*Refrain*

**Write your love upon my heart  
as my law, my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word, and deed,  
may my living bring you glory.**

*Refrain*

**May I weep with those who weep,  
share the joy of sister, brother.  
In the welcome of Christ,  
may we welcome one another.**

*Refrain*

**Theme Time**

**Anthem**

**Scripture Readings** Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
Matthew 5:21-37

**Hymn** VU#371 Open My Eyes, That I May See

**Open my eyes, that I may see  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.**

**Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth thou sendest clear;  
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,  
everything false will disappear.**

**Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**Open my mouth, and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
open my heart and let me prepare  
love with thy children thus to share.**

**Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

## **Message**

**Hymn** MV#176 Three Things I Promise<sup>2</sup>

**Three things I promise, Holy God,  
in age and youth, in life and death:  
to bless your Name, and cling to Christ,  
and listen for the Spirit's breath.**

**Your love unfolded time and space,  
and life, and all that life became,  
and so, with thankful heart and voice:  
through good and ill, I bless your Name.**

**I follow, serve, and cling to Christ  
amid our culture's tides and trends,  
for here your Name is most revealed:  
Majestic Love, and Best of Friends.**

**Enlivened as the Spirit moves  
to cleanse, awaken, and renew,  
I pray that justice, peace, and truth,  
may seed and grow in all I do.**

**If I should live when vigour fades,  
and family and friends are gone,  
three acts of loving faith remain,  
when days are slow, and work is done.**

**Revive and guide me, Living God,  
as day by day, until my death,  
I bless your Name, and cling to Christ,  
and listen for the Spirit's breath.**

### **Minute for Mission**

**Response Hymn MV#191 What Can I Do?<sup>3</sup>**

**What can I do? What can I bring?  
What can I say? What can I sing?  
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.  
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**

### **Prayers for the World**

**Hymn VU#651 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but thou art mighty,  
hold me with thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me till I want no more,  
feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain,  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield,  
be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee,  
I will ever give to thee.**

## **Blessing and Sending**



**Minister:** Rev. Jim Tenford (he/him)

**Children & Youth Minister:** Michelle McConkey (she/her)

**Choir Director:** Corinne Groff (she/her)

**Pianist:** Shirley Hill (she/her)



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