



# Sunset United Church

January 2, 2022 - Christmas  
*Chosen Home*

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

## WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Words

Hymn MV#2 Come All You People<sup>1</sup>

**Come all you people, come and praise your Maker,  
come all you people, come and praise your Maker,  
come all you people, come and praise your Maker,  
come now and worship the Lord.**

Call to Worship<sup>2</sup>

Jesus said,

**“This is God’s house.”**

So come into this time

**Just as you are.**

Come into this time

**Speaking your truth.**

Come into this time

**With your authentic self.**

This is God’s home

**This is our home.**

Let us worship God.

## Lighting the Christ Candle

Hymn MV#1 Let Us Build a House<sup>3</sup>

Let us build a house where love can dwell and  
all can safely live, a place where saints and  
children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of  
hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of  
grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions.

*Refrain* All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and  
words are strong and true, where all God's children  
dare to seek to dream God's reign anew. Here the  
cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's  
grace; here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

*Refrain* All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in  
water, wine and wheat; a banquet hall on  
holy ground, where peace and justice meet. Here the  
love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and  
space; as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

*Refrain* All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond  
the wood and stone to heal and strengthen,  
serve and teach, and live the Word they've known. Here the  
outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's  
face; let us bring an end to fear and danger:

*Refrain* All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their  
songs and visions heard and loved and treasured,  
taught and claimed as words within the Word. Built of  
tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of  
grace; let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

*Refrain* All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

### Prayer Seeking Reconciliation

Research shows that on average...

...Let us pray:

We could offer welcome

**But we often choose judgment.**

We could choose action,

**But we often choose silence.**

We could choose advocacy,

**But we often choose comfort.**

We could choose truth,

**But we often choose ignorance.**

We could choose God,

**But we often choose ourselves.**

Forgive us, Loving One,

For the moments when we choose poorly.

**Open our hearts to choose you,**

**To choose community,**

**To choose love.**

**Gratefully we pray, Amen.**

## Words of Assurance

Family of faith, no matter how we choose,

We cannot lose God's love.

It is overwhelmingly ever-present

Always with us.

So may we accept God's grace,

And use it as fuel for better days.

Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

**No matter how many times we walk away,**

**God always welcomes us home.**

**We are loved.**

**We are forgiven.**

**We are invited.**

**Thanks be to God, amen.**

**Sung Response MV#115 Behold, Behold, I Make All  
Things New<sup>4</sup>**

**Behold, behold, I make all things new,  
beginning with you and starting from today.**

**Behold, behold, I make all things new,  
my promise is true, for I am Christ the way.**

## Sharing the Story

**Hymn MV#161 I Have Called You by Your Name<sup>5</sup>**

**I have called you by your name, you are mine;**

**I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.**

**I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.**

**You are gifted, called and chosen; you are mine.**

I will help you learn my name as you go;  
read it written in my people, help them grow.  
Pour the water in my name, speak the word your soul can  
claim, offer Jesus' body given long ago.

I know you will need my touch as you go;  
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.  
Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in spite of  
doubt, hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.

I have given you a name, it is mine;  
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.  
With my wonder in your soul, make my wounded children  
whole; go and tell my precious people they are mine.

## WE LISTEN

### Prayer for Illumination

Scripture     Colossians 3:12-17  
                  Luke 2:41-52

### Special Music

### Reflection

Hymn    VU#62    Once In Royal David's City<sup>6</sup>

Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed.  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven  
who, with God, is over all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall.  
There among the poor and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

For he is our lifelong pattern;  
daily, when on earth he grew,  
he was tempted, scorned, rejected,  
tears and smiles like us he knew.  
Thus he feels for all our sadness,  
and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at least shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love;  
for that child who seemed so helpless  
is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.

Call to Offering

Offering Prayer

Gracious God,  
Your story is one that forever invites us  
To be our full selves,  
To take up space,  
To go where we feel called,  
And to allow this community to feel like home.  
So use these gifts to keep building your home here.  
With gratitude as tall as the ceiling, we pray.  
Amen.

Prayers of the Community and The Lord's Prayer

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, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn VU#716 My Life Flows On<sup>7</sup>

My life flows on in endless song,  
above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the sweet, though far off hymn  
that hails a new creation.  
Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear the music ringing:  
it finds an echo in my soul  
how can I keep from singing?  
  
What though my joys and comforts die?  
My Saviour still is living.  
What though the shadows gather 'round?  
A new song Christ is giving.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm,  
while to that Rock I'm clinging:  
Since Love commands  
both heaven and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?  
  
When tyrants tremble, sick with fear,  
and hear their death knells ringing:  
when friends rejoice both far and near,

How can I keep from singing?  
In prison cell and dungeon vile  
our thoughts to them are winging:  
when friends by shame are undefiled,  
how can I keep from singing?

I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin;  
I see the blue above it;  
and day by day this pathway smooths,  
since first I learned to love it.  
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
a fountain ever springing:  
all things are mine since I am Christ's  
how can I keep from singing?

## Sending Forth and Blessing

### *Postlude*



**Minister:** Rev. Tricia Gerhard (she/her)

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

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

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



<sup>1</sup> Words: Alexander Gondo, Zimbabwe; English paraphrase: I-to Loh.  
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