



Sunset United Church

January 23, 2022

Third Sunday After Epiphany



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

WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Music

Lighting the Christ Candle¹

We light these small candles.

**Even the smallest of flames can be the beacons of
hope.**

We pray that hope and love might fill our hearts.

May we carry this light with us, always.

Call to Worship²

Holy One, dwell within us.

Whisper in our ears;

Glimmer in our vision;

Write upon our hearts.

We wait,

With open ears, open eyes, open hearts.

Amen.

Opening Prayer²

Gift-giver, you call us together
With our different gifts,
Our different ideas,
Our different tastes.

You call us together
To share what makes us special,
To build each other up,
To serve each other in love.

You call us together,
Knowing that we need
all parts of the body
if we are to be whole.

You call us together,
To sing, to pray, to listen, to speak.
To be refreshed
So that we can go out and serve.

You call us together,
In the name of the One
In whom we find our being.
Amen.

Hymn VU#389 God Is Here³

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and
prayer,
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share:
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font and pulpit, here the cross has central
place.

Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
here in newness and renewal God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock
and fold;

here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

God of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and
doubt,

keep us faithful to the gospel, help us work your purpose out.

Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive;
we who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe.

Prayer Seeking Reconciliation

Ever-present One,

You call us to be your presence in this world,

But too often we get caught up

In being a hand or a foot,

And lose sight of the overarching mission you call us to.

We fracture into pieces.

We go our separate ways,

Forgetting that we need each other to be whole.

You have given us your law

To our guide,

But we turn our backs

On what we see as rules and restrictions,

Fearful that we will not live up

To your expectations.

Help us see with new eyes,

And hear with the ears of our heart,

The liberating spirit of the law

That strengthens and revives
and enables us to be and
do all you call us to be and do.

O God of liberation and justice,
Help us be faithful witnesses
To your law of love and unity. Amen.

-time of silent prayer -

Words of Assurance

Sung Response MV#95 How Deep the Peace⁴

How deep the peace, the confidence, of those whose wrongs
are forgiven.

How deep the peace, the confidence, of those whose hearts
are healed.

Sharing the Story

Hymn VU#588 Many Are the Lightbeams⁵ (vs. 2, 4 & 5)

Many are the branches of the one tree.

Our one tree is Jesus.

Many are the branches of the one tree;
we are one in Christ.

Many ways to serve God, the Spirit is one,
servant spirit of Jesus.

Many ways to serve God, the Spirit is one;
we are one in Christ.

Many are the members, the body is one,
members all of Jesus.

Many are the members, the body is one;
we are one in Christ.

WE LISTEN

Scripture I Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

Special Music

Reflection

Hymn VU#606 In Christ There Is No East or West⁶

In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great family of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

In him shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.

Join hands, then, people of the faith,
whate'er your race may be;
all children of the living God
are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christ-like souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

Prayers of the Community and The Lord's Prayer

*- For the Lord's prayer use the language and wording
most familiar to you -*

Hymn MV#209 Go, Make a Difference⁷

Go make a difference. We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.

We are the salt of the earth,
called to let the people see
the love of God for you and me.
We are the light of the world,
not to be hidden but be seen.
Go make a difference in the world.

Go make a difference. We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.

We are the hands of Christ
reaching out to those in need,
the face of God for all to see.
We are the spirit of hope;
we are the voice of peace.
Go make a difference in the world.

Go make a difference. We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.

So let your love shine on,
let it shine for all to see.
Go make a difference in the world.
And the spirit of Christ
will be with us as we go.
Go make difference in the world.

Benediction

Sending Forth and Blessing

Amen VU#974⁸

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!
Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!

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)



¹ Adapted from a prayer written by Beth W Johnston, *Gathering A/C/E 2021/2022 Prayers for Worship*, page 43. Used with permission.

² Written by Joanna Harder and posted on Spacious Faith.com Found on re-worship.blogspot.com.

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