



Sunset United Church

June 26, 2022 – 3rd after Pentecost (Proper 8)

Tri-Church Summer Worship

Lakeview-Sunset-Wesley United Churches

Release of Covenant & Communion Service



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

WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Hymn MV#62 There Is Room For All¹

There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;
there is room for all, sheltered in God's love.

And I rejoice and sing, "My refuge and my rock, in whom I trust."

There is room for all, there is room for all!

Lighting the Candles

The light of the Christ candle
And the light of the Rainbow Candle
Symbolize:

Strength in hope,
Wideness in good will,
Joy that is contagious,
Welcome that is radically offered,
And love that is all-inclusive.

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer

You touch our lives, God, in many ways –
You raise us up when we feel discouraged,
You ground us when we are flighty
and on edge,
You inspire us when we have lost a sense
Of who we are.
You settle us when change surrounds us,
You accompany us in the many and varied
Journeys we undertake day by day.
Be with us in this time of worship,
And give us the direction we need to face
The future with hope and energy.
We pray this in Jesus name.
Amen.

Hymn MV#12 Come Touch Our Hearts²

Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,
from failing embers build a blazing fire;
love strong enough to overturn injustice,
to seek a world more gracious,
come touch and bless our hearts.

Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,
your quiet presence all our fears dispel;
create a space for spirit to grow in us,
let life and beauty fill us,
come touch and bless our souls.

Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,
set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;

help us to open doors of understanding,
to welcome truth and wisdom,
come touch and bless our minds.

Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,
and in our weakness your great strength reveal;
that we may rise to follow and to serve,
steady now our nerve,
come touch and bless our wills.

Come touch us now, this people who are gathered,
to break the bread and share the cup of peace;
that we may love you with our heart, our soul,
our mind, our strength, our all,
come touch us with your grace.

Passing the Peace

Sharing the Story

Hymn "I Am Amazing"³

I am amazing!

I am amazing!

I am filled with power!

I am filled with power!

And God loves me.

And God loves me.

Like cra - zy.

Like cra - zy.

I am amazing!

We are amazing!

We are amazing!

We are filled with power!

We are filled with power!

Bread of life, help me live a life as pure and true as Jesus did.

Bread of life, help me see the boundless love of Christ for
you and me.

I have heard your voice calling, “Come, my friend, and share
in the feast that is laid out for you to show how much I care.”

Bread of life, feed my soul, as the presence of the Spirit
makes me whole.

Bread of life, fill my heart with the grace and mercy you
impart.

Celebrating Communion⁵

Here at this table...

...May the Peace of Christ,

The love of God

And the presence of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you

God of life...

...You decided to again to do a new thing.

You called Abram and Sarai

Into a new life,

Promising that through them

The world would be blessed.

The new thing continued...

...And once again you did a new thing.

You called to Moses and Aaron and Miriam

To lead the people to freedom,

Giving them a set of rules to guide

How they lived with you and with each other,

Covenanting to be with them always.

Over time,...

...Prophets filled with your Spirit.

Remembering all these gifts,
All these new things,
All the ways you brought new life to your people,
Remembering we join in our voices
With the voices of the faithful through all the ages
Singing songs of praise and thanksgiving.
Eventually, looking at the world
You again decided to do a new thing.
You chose to join us in creation,
The Word-made-Flesh,
To share our joys and sorrows,
To live through the challenges and successes.
In Jesus, child of Mary, ...
...Who encourages us to pray together saying:
Our Father

Sharing the Meal

Prayer after Communion

Loving One, who invites us and seats us at the table,
We have shared the bread and the cup,
tasting the goodness offered there.
May the meal shared together awaken our hunger for
the Banquet of Life.
May the company of this gathered community renew
our commitment to be the presence of Your love in
the world.
God, you regularly do new things,
May we be refreshed and renewed
So that when the next new thing begins
We will have the wisdom and the courage
To be open to all that it offers,
Energized to be on this journey with You.

We pray these things in the name of the One, who is
teacher and guide, rock and redeemer.
Amen.

Hymn MV#144 Like a Healing Stream⁶

Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding,
promising revival and rebirth...like a healing stream.

Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new creation,
yearning for an end to want and need...like a gentle rain.

Like a river strong with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel in a new direction,
calling for an end to hate and war...like a river strong.

Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow:
God will always challenge and provide!
Like a mighty sea, like a river strong, like a gentle rain, like a
healing stream.

Service of Release from Covenant

Presider

Late winter 2018, ...

...Please join me in prayer:

Prayer

Holy One, we give thanks for the time and faith shared together in this covenant. As we give thanks for the leadership shared and for the love offered, while marking the end of this relationship, be with us. Guide us by the Spirit to say goodbye well, and to take our next steps with courage. Amen.

Recognition of Symbols of Ministry

The Bible

The Bible is a symbol...
...as you move forward.

We will continue to teach and learn from Scripture.
The Word of God lives among us.

The Chalice & Mason Jar

These items represent...
... shared meal and living water.

We will continue to celebrate new life through communion and baptism. We will always be a place of radical welcome.

Coffee Cup

The Coffee cup represents...
...between you.

We will continue to share our joys and sorrows, our dreams and our fears remembering we are connected one to another through faith.

Choir Symbol

We cannot deny the important...
...presence here in this place.

We will continue to worship with melody and song, recognizing and honouring the gift of music in our midst.

Prayer Shawl

The shawl represents...

...to care for one another and the world

We will continue to care for others; surrounding them with support.

Quilt

The quilt symbolizes...

...the time you spend together.

We value the presence of children and youth in our congregation, and we commit to continuing our ministry with them and their families.

Kaleidoscope

Marking the End of the Covenant

Tricia

Members and friends of Sunset United, ...
...made along the way.

We receive your gratitude and offer our forgiveness.

Tricia and Staff team

Michelle, Shirley, Corinne, Bonnie, Polly: ...
...for the mistakes I have made.

Staff team

We receive your gratitude. As we part, may we know God's grace and peace.

Presider

To the members and friends of Sunset United Church:

Will you release Tricia Gerhard from the duties of the ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care in this place? **We will**

Will you offer your encouragement and prayers for Tricia's continued journey in Winnipeg? **We will.**

Linda to Tricia

Will you... .. Sacrament and Pastoral Care?

I will

Will you respect... ..their continued ministry here?

I will.

Members of the Tri-Church community and Living Skies Region,
Will you, people of the Tri-church community and of the Regional Council, release Sunset United from their covenant? **We will**

Will you remember Tricia and Sunset in your prayers and support them in their new journeys? **We will.**

On behalf of Living Skies Regional Council, and the United Church of Canada, I bear witness to the words spoken: words of gratitude, love, and release.

Amen.

Tricia's words of Release

Beloved of Sunset,...Please pray with me:

May God be with those who go and those who stay.

May the new stages of our lives apart be richly blessed and guided. With gratitude and love, we pray these things. Amen.

Hymn MV#150 Spirit God, Be Our Breath⁷

Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.
Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.
Our world seems inward, defensive, withdrawn...
Spirit God, be our song.

Patient God: soothe our pride, calm our fear.
Comfort us. When we know you are near
we grow more certain, our vision is clear.
Patient God, calm our fear.

Loving God: be our voice, be our prayer.
Reaching out, joining hands as we share,
we seek your guidance through friendship and care.
Loving God, be our prayer.

Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.
Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.
Through change, through challenge, we'll greet the new dawn
Spirit God, be our song.

Sending Forth and Blessing

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)



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⁵ Communion liturgy adapted from one written by Rev. Gord Waldie. www.worshipofferings.blogspot.com. Used with permission.

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