

Sunset United Church



June 27th, 2021 -

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Minister: Rev. Tricia Gerhard (she/her)

Children & Youth Minister:

Michelle McConkey (she/her)

Choir Director: Corinne Groff (she/her)

Pianist: Shirley Hill (she/her)

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 and Affirming Candles*

Hymn: VU#411 O God, We Call

*O God we call, O God we call,
from deep inside we yearn,
from deep inside we yearn,
from deep inside we yearn for you.*

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 130)^

Sing praises to God,

And give thanks to God's holy name

For God has healed us when we cried for help

And restored us in times of deepest despair.

God has turned our sorrow into dancing;

Take our sackcloth from us,

And clothed us with joy.

Sing to God without end,

Give thanks to God forever.

Eternal and ever-present God,

Sustain and excite our gathered community;

Awaken our expectancy;

Subdue our expectations.

Come, silent Spirit, and embrace us.

**Let the works we see and hear and speak and sing be
transformed by the Word made flesh,**

That our worship may be wholly yours, God.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Opening Prayer*

We wait for you, O God,

And in your word is our hope.

We wait for you,

More than the watchers long for morning.

We wait in hope,

Knowing that in you there is love unfailing.

We wait with joy,

Because you have the power to restore us again.

Come be with us in our worship today

And bring us life anew!

Amen

1. *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.*

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

2. *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:*

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

3. *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:*

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

4. 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:

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

5. 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:

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

Prayer Seeking Reconciliation[^]

So, tell me, is this a world “where love can dwell and all can safely live?”

Hey! I just sang that in the hymn, but you wanted me to pay attention?

Well, yes! So, I'll ask if you really help to create a world of equity "where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew"?

Isn't that a little personal, a little sensitive, a little unfair?

Are you saying that your hands *do* "reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word you've known"?

You're asking me to embrace "tears and cries and laughter" for others?

In this world of divisions, have you, do you, would you, will you?

(a time of silent prayer)

Words of Assurance

When we think we don't measure up, our loving God speaks to us in love. The Risen Christ leads us on while equipping us to lead, feeds us so we may feed, and welcomes us so we may welcome. The challenging Spirit whispers words of guidance so we may teach and fills us with hidden depths so we may reach into the depths around us.

We are prepared in love. We are filled with forgiveness. We are renewed through divine mystery. Thanks be to God.

Sung Response: MV#90 Don't be Afraid **^^

*Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
my love is stronger than your fear.*

*Don't be afraid. My love is stronger
and I have promised, promised to be always near.*

Sharing the Story:

1. Because Jesus felt a woman touch his coat
and said, "your faith has made you well,"
I know that God takes notice,
and knows my name, and loves us all:

*So thank you, thank you, God.
Thank you, God!
Thank you, thank you, God.
Thank you, God!*

2. Because Jesus ate with people who'd gone wrong,
And said, "You are forgiven now,"
I know that God forgives me,
And hears my name, and loves us all:

*So thank you, thank you, God.
Thank you, God!
Thank you, thank you, God.
Thank you, God!*

3. Because Jesus went to heal a little girl,
And said, "Get up, and have some food,"
I know God cares about me,
And speaks my name, and loves us all:

*So thank you, thank you, God.
Thank you, God!
Thank you, thank you, God.
Thank you, God!*

4. *Because Jesus sat with children on his knee,
And said, "I'm glad to meet you all,"
I know God thinks I'm lovely,
And sings my name, and loves us all:*

*So thank you, thank you, God.
Thank you, God!
Thank you, thank you, God.
Thank you, God!*

5. *Because Jesus lived and died, and lives with God,
And says, "I'm with you all the time,"
I know that God is near me,
And calls my name, and loves us all:*

*So thank you, thank you, God.
Thank you, God!
Thank you, thank you, God.
Thank you, God!*

Scripture: Mark 5: 21-43

Special Music

Reflection

Hymn: MV#12 Come Touch our Hearts *^*

1. *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.

2. *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.*

3. *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.*

4. *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.*

5. *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.*

Prayers of the Community and the Lord's Prayer**

1. *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.*

2. *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.*

3. *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.*

4. *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.*

Benediction

Amen

Postlude



^adapted from a prayer written by Jeff Shrowder
(<http://thebillabong.info>). Used with permission.

* Prayer written by Wanda Winfield. *Gathering: Pentecost 1 2021 (Year B)*, page 44. Used with permission

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