





# Sunset United Church

June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Pride/Affirming Sunday

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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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: MV#62 There is Room for all (sung twice) \*\*\*

*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!*

## **Call to Worship^:**

We are the body of Christ!

The hand clapping, toe tapping, heart pumping, mouth  
tasting, arms waving,

Justice seeking, hymn singing, love making,  
bread breaking, risk taking...

### **Body of Christ!**

Baptized in one Spirit, we are members of one Body.

**Many and varied in gender, colour, sexuality,  
Age, class, and ability, we are members of Christ's  
beautiful body.**

None of us can say to another:

“I have no need of you”

**For only together can we find wholeness.**

None of us can say to another:

“I will not care for you”

**For we are all connected like muscle and bone. If one  
suffers, we all suffer. If one rejoices, we all rejoice!**

Thanks be to God who, in Christ, has made us one.

Let us worship God!

## **Opening Prayer:**

**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.*

### **Prayer Seeking Reconciliation\***

As we look at our relationship as a church  
With the 2SLGBTQ+  
We recognize that we carry the weight  
Of many things – things said and unsaid,

Things done and actions not taken.  
This is our opportunity to come to God  
With these confessions,  
To let them go, and to start a refreshed  
Journey of support and love.  
And so, let's pray

From indifference and detachment

**Gracious One, deliver us.**

From prejudice and pity

**Gracious One, deliver us.**

From selfish and speedy judgments

**Gracious One, deliver us.**

From shallow and simple answers

**Gracious One, deliver us.**

In this time of silence,

We name our personal and society regrets,

The challenges and sin in our lives.

*-silent prayer-*

With hope and wisdom

**Living God, inspire us.**

With compassion and involvement

**Living God, inspire us**

With openness and love

**Living God, inspire us.**

With full and prayerful generosity

**Living God, inspire us.**

With courage to face the reality and complexity of life

**Living God, inspire us.**

With joy to celebrate, nurture and express our diversity in  
sexuality and gender expression

**Living God, inspire us.**

In this time of silence,  
We open our hearts and minds  
To your divine presence,  
Knowing that you hear us and  
Hold our prayers

*-silent prayer-*

In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

### Words of Assurance

**Sung Response:** MV#85. Take, O Take Me as I am

\*^\*

*Take, O take me as I am;  
Summon out what I shall be;  
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.*

### Sharing the Story:

**Hymn:** MV#145 Draw the Circle Wide

\*\*^^

*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.*

1. God the still point of the circle,  
'round whom all creation turns;  
nothing lost, but held forever,  
in God's gracious arms.

*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,*

*standing side by side, draw the circle wide.*

2. Let our hearts touch far horizons,  
so encompass great and small;  
let our loving know no borders,  
faithful to God's call.

*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
standing side by side, draw the circle wide*

3. Let the dreams we dream be larger,  
than we've ever dreamed before;  
let the dream of Christ be in us,  
open every door.

*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.*

**Scripture:** Acts 16: 9-15  
2 Corinthians 13: 1-13

**Special Music:** We Are a Rainbow  
(singers of Living Skies Ministry Regional Council)

## Reflection

**Hymn:** VU#372 Though I May Speak \*\*\*^

1. Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain,

*as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.*

2. *Though I may give all I possess,  
and striving so my love profess,  
but not be given by love within,  
the profit soon turns strangely thin.*
  
3. *Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,  
our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
by this we worship, and are freed.*

### **Litany of Love**

We say: "Come, accept the cost and joy of discipleship"

We say: "Our congregation is Affirming"

**It is good to voice our beliefs  
and commitments.**

**But say what we will, even in angelic tones,  
If we do not love each other, our talk is cheap.  
We shall sound to the world like clanging symbols.**

We thank God for the joy of learning!

We are curious about the world within us,

The world around us and the world beyond us.

We wonder about the Creator of it all.

Exploring tradition, scripture and experience,

We pray and reason together.

Our faith seeks understanding.

**It is good to grow in knowledge and wisdom.  
But even if we knew everything,**

Even if we have mountain-moving faith,  
If we do not love each other,  
We have gained nothing.

What does love ask of you?

Love asks that we be patient and kind  
As we build an inclusive faith community,  
That we abandon arrogance,  
That we risk new things,  
That we not delight in the failings of others,  
That we rejoice in discerning and living  
God's truth.

Love is strong!

It believes and hopes and endures.

But sometimes even love falters,

Then may we forgive and accept forgiveness,

So that love may be renewed.

**Hymn:** MV#209 Go Make A Difference 

*Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence.*

*Go make a diff'rence in the world.*

- 1. 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 diff'rence in the world.*

*Go make a difference. We can make a difference.*

*Go make a difference in the world.*

2. *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.*

3. *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.*

*Go make a difference. We can make a difference.*

*Go make a difference in the world.*

**Benediction**

**Amen**

**Postlude**



^Prayer written by Rev. Ann B Day, from *A Place in God's Heart*, David Loman, editor 2007. Used by permission of the Institute for Welcoming Resources, National LGBTQ Task Force. Used as a part of the *Living Lament Apology Reconciliation* worship created by Manitou Conference Affirming Ministry Discernment Team and shared with Iridesce: The Living Apology Project 2017

\*prayer adapted from Richard Watson's work in *Courage to Love: Liturgies for the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender Community*. Compiled by Geoffery Duncan (The Pilgrim Press, 2002) page. 238. Used in the worship liturgy in the 2017 Affirming Ministries Sunday, Saskatchewan Conference, written by Grosvenor Park United Church, Saskatoon (found at [www.livingskiesrc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2017\\_Affirming-Ministry.Service.pdf](http://www.livingskiesrc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2017_Affirming-Ministry.Service.pdf))

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