



Sunset United Church



1st Sunday after Pentecost – June 7th, 2020

Affirming Ministry/Pride Sunday

Minister: Rev. Tricia Gerhard

Children & Youth Minister: Michelle McConkey

Pianist: Shirley Hill

Sunset United Church, 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 Candle:

Hymn: MV#30 It's a Song of Praise to the Maker *

It's a song of praise to the Maker,
The thrush sings high in the tree.
It's a song of praise to the Maker,
The gray whale sings in the sea.

Refrain

And by the Spirit you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry

and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's a call of life to the Giver
When waves and waterfalls roar.

It's a call of life to the Giver
When high tides break on the shore.

REFRAIN

It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
The bumblebees hum along.
It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
The summer breeze joins the song,

REFRAIN

It's the chorus of all creation;
It's sung by all living things.
It's the chorus of all creation;
A song the universe sings,

REFRAIN

Call to Worship:

God, the Creator, is with us this day.

And so we gather in the name of the One who made the sun and the moon, the One who made the ocean's waves, and the prairie wind. The One, who made each of us, and who call us to this worship just as we are.

Sing: VU#372 Though I may Speak - verse 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.

Christ, the One who taught of a loving God, is with us
this day.

**And it is in the shelter of God's love that we
come together. May this time be one brushed
with hope, peace and acceptance. As we
celebrate this Affirming Ministry And Pride
Sunday, we gather knowing that it is in
celebrating our great diversity that God's love is
most clearly known.**

Sing: VU#372 Though I May Speak - verse 2 **

Thought 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.

Spirit, the Power that binds us together in perfect
harmony, is with us this day.

**And bound by the love of God we rejoice and lift
our prayers. For here, though we are all so very
different, we are united, we belong, we may find
the space our souls need to rest in the Creator
and sing out to the Holy One.**

Sing: VU#374 Though I May Speak – verse 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.

Prayer Seeking Reconciliation

God of life,
you are the one who paints rainbows in the sky,
you fill the earth with vibrant and varied creatures,
and make humanity a part of your Holy Covenant.
It is You who calls us to this time of worship today
And so we come before You in hope.
We rejoice that here all people
Are free to worship as they are.
We give thanks that in this space,
In this community,
Love is love,
Mercy is free,
And hope is restored.

And yet we know we sometimes fail

As individuals and as a church.

**Forgive us those times we have turned people away,
Forgive us when we have intentionally made people
feel unwelcome in our community,
By our misuse of preferred pronouns,
By letting homophobic, transphobic, racist, ageist,
sexist words go unchallenged.**

**Forgive us for judging others, condemning others,
hurting others,
And fill us with the courage we need to not only
Continue this journey of affirmation
But to embrace it into our everyday living,
So that we might draw the circle wider.**

(time of silence to offer personal prayers)

Affirmation of Forgiveness

Sung Response: MV#115 Behold, Behold ***

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

WE LISTEN

Scripture:

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, "Let there be light;"
And there was light.
And God saw that the light was good; and God
separated the light from the darkness. God called the
light Day, and the darkness he called Night.

And there was evening and there was morning, the first
day.

And God said,
"Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters,
And let it separate the waters from the waters."
So God made the dome and separated the waters that
were under the dome from the waters that were above
the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky.

And there was evening and there was morning, the
second day.

And God said,
"Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into
one place, and let the dry land appear."
And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the
waters that were gathered together God called Seas.
And God saw that it was good.
Then God said: "Let the earth put forth vegetation:
plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on
earth that bear fruit with the seed in it."

And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good.

And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said,

“Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and them be signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.”
and it was so.

God made two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said,

“Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the

waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God say that it was good.

God blessed them, saying:

“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let bird multiply on the earth.”

And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said,

“Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said,

“Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have care over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

So God created humankind in God’s image,
In the image of God, God created them;
Male and female God created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them,

“Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and take care over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

God said,

“See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.”

And it was so. God saw everything that was made, and indeed, it was very good.

And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day, God finished the work that God had done, and God rested on the Seventh day from all the work that God had done.

So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that God had done in creation.

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Luke 2: 16-21

When Jesus came to Nazareth,
Where he had been brought up, Jesus went to the
synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He
stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah
was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the
place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
Because God has anointed me
To bring good news to the poor.
God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To let the oppressed go free,
To proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

And Jesus rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the
attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the
synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to
them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your
hearing.”

All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious
words that came from his mouth.

They said: “Is not this Joseph’s son?”

Jesus said to them,

“doubtless you will quote to me this proverb: ‘doctor,
cure yourself!’ and you will say ‘do here also in your

hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’”

And Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown.

But the truth is,

There were many widows in Israel

In the time of Elijah,

When the heaven was shut up

three years and six months,

and there was a severe famine over all the land;

yet Elijah was sent to none of them

except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon.

There were also many lepers in Israel

In the time of Elisha,

And none of them was cleansed except

Naaman the Syrian.”

When they heard this,

All the in the synagogue were filled with rage.

They got up,

Drove Jesus out of the town,

And led him to the brow of the hill

On which their town was built,

So that they may hurl Jesus off the cliff.

But Jesus passed through the midst of them

And went on his way.

This is the good news for God’s people. Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Special Music

WE RESPOND

Dedication of gifts given during this time of COVID-19:

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer (sung VU#959)

God our Creator, by your very essence we are called into relationship. As we gather our prayers before you this morning we praise you. We rejoice in the vastness of your creation. The beauty we see all around us speaks to the beauty we are called to see in each other. Help us take conscious care of this planet. God Hear our prayer

Sing: MV 62 There is Room For All ****

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.

Christ our Redeemer, your life giving call to love each other as you have loved us empowers us. Help us as we walk this road of life together that we might truly live in your love. We pray today for all those places around the world where love, compassion, kindness, patience and

gentleness are seen as weaknesses rather than strengths. We pray for the world's leaders and ask that you would fill them with integrity and the willingness to speak truth. We pray for *(add current world issues from this week.)* Christ hear our prayer.

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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.

Spirit, our Sustainer...it is your power that dances among us this morning. As we commit ourselves to continuing our Affirming Journey and walking along side our LGBTQ2S siblings we ask that you would continue to guide and inspire this church and all those who go with us. We pray for those who have been shunned, hated and rejected because of their gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, age, religion, class, socio-economic place in the world. We pray for those who are allies. We pray also this day loving God for everyone who needs your healing touch in their lives. We pray for all those in hospital and long term care. We pray for those who long for healing of their minds and spirits. We pray for those who walk in grief and sorrow. We remember especially *(name people who have requested*

prayers) And so many more whom we name in our hearts...(*silent prayers*). Spirit hear our prayer

Sing: MV 62 There is Room For All ****

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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.

All this and so much more we lift up to you loving God,
calling you by the name that feels most like home to us,
we sing the words Jesus taught: (VU#959)

Hymn:

MV#209 Go Make a Difference (v. 1 & 3) *****

Refrain

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

Go make a diff'rence in the world.

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.

2. 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 a difference in the world.
REFRAIN

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude



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