

Sunset United Church



May 16th 2021- Ascension

Minister: Rev. Tricia Gerhard (she/her)

Children & Youth Minister:

Michelle McConkey (she/her)

Choir Director: Corinne Groff (she/her)

Pianist: Shirley Hill (she/her)

Special Music:

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# 14 Where Two or Three are Gathered

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*Where two or three
are gathered in my name,
I am there, I am there.*

Call to Worship^:

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We meet God daily, we feel God's peace around and within us. We give thanks for God's presence as we worship this day.

Opening Prayer:**

Creator,
You are the constant lover
Who never forsakes us;
You are the mother
Who cradles her children,
You are the teacher
Patiently repeating your words for us.
We worship you.

Jesus,
In you we were convinced
God loves us;
Through you,
We are formed into your people;
With you
We serve those
The world has forgotten.
We follow you.

Holy Spirit,
You are the power
That gives us peace;
You are the wisdom
That reveals the broken
In our midst;
You are the spokesperson
To whom we are sometimes deaf.

We welcome you.

God in Community, God of Community,
We lift our worship:
Our songs, our prayers, our reflections
To you this day.
Be with us as we worship together, apart.
Amen

Hymn: MV#122 This is the Day ^^

*This is the day that God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad! (2x)*

*Singing hallelu, singing hallelu,
singing hallelu!*

We will rejoice and be glad! (2x)

Prayer Seeking Reconciliation

Here we are, God,
Once again finding ourselves
Looking up for Jesus' presence,
Looking in so many places for
God knows what sometimes.
Sometimes God,
It seems as if we are looking for ourselves.
**God, in this world of distractions,
Restrictions and shifting expectations,
We can get lost.
In fact,
We get so lost that we lose sight of You.
Help us to find you in the midst of all we do.**

Help us to know that you aren't
somewhere up there,
but present with us.
Help us in this moment of quiet stillness,
To move beyond that which keeps you hidden,
And help us to see you clearly in us.
As we go about our day,
Help us to have eyes to see you,
And ears to hear you.
And God, just for a moment,
Let others see Jesus in us. Amen.

Words of Assurance

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:

Hymn: MV#2 Come All You People ***

*Come all you people, come and praise your Maker,
come all you people, come and praise your Maker,
come all you people, come and praise your Maker,
come now and worship the Lord. (2x)*

Scripture: Acts 1: 1-11

Special Music

Reflection

Hymn: VU#192 Forsaking Chariots of Fire

1. *Forsaking chariots of fire and fanfared brass,
as strangely silent as he came, the Saviour leave
and God, with heaven's caress, the Son receives.*
2. *He has to go, as from the grave he had to rise:
In order to be everywhere he must depart
To live, not in one place, but in each heart.*
3. *So, Christ ascends; air cradles him, disciples stare.
Their Easter joy, his seven weeks' stay, seem now to end.
But no! The Spirit's sending they portend.*
4. *Let Angel harmonies resound; let trumpets blare;
Let heaven's banquet guests applaud, the welcomed word,
and earth anticipate her coming Lord.*

Prayers of the Community and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn: VU#424 May the God of Hope

^***^

1. *May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.*

*Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.*

2. *May the God of healing free the earth from fear,
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.
May the God of love keep our commitment clear
to a world restored, to human life renewed.*

*Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.*

Benediction

Amen

Postlude



**Words by Dora White. Gathering: Lent/Easter 2021 (Year B), page 42. Used with permission*

^Adapted from a prayer written by Gord Waldie. Found on www.worshipofferings.blogspot.com

*** adapted from a prayer written by Thom Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies Blog, found on www.re-worship.blogspot.com*

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****Words: Alexander Gondo, Zimbabwe; English Paraphrase: l-to Loh*

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