





# Sunset United Church



May 2, 2021-Fifth Sunday of Easter  
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: Sung by Marina Jeffery,  
Brenda Scarfe and Corinne Groff) (she/her)

Reader: Susan Black (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\***

Let the light of Christ and the flame of the Affirming candle  
draw us together as we ready ourselves for worship with the  
assurance that we are not alone and all are welcome.

**Call to Worship^:**

The vine emerges from the earth,  
Nourished

And nourishing.

Rises without visible connection;  
Roots hidden,  
Promise unknown.

Strong to withstand storms,  
Fragile when plucked too soon.

So it is that we grow...  
Nourished by invisible connections  
to the living God,  
called to nourish that which is seen  
and that which is yet buried within.

Opening Prayer:

We cry out with praise and thanksgiving  
In response to God's loving kindness,  
Holding us, guiding us, enfolding us.  
And as we gather today,  
as the dispersed people of God,  
we pray that our worship reflects  
that God-love.

We offer our worship today with Easter  
In our hearts, filling us with joy,  
And with the anticipation of Pentecost,  
Encouraging us forward.

Let our praise for all that you have done,  
Are doing and will do,  
Truly resound in our hearts and in our living,  
Within these walls and beyond.

Amen.

1. *Joyful, joyful we adore you,  
God of glory, life and love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before you,  
opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the gloom of doubt away;  
giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.*
  
2. *All your works with joy surround you,  
earth and heaven reflect your rays,  
stars and angels sing around you,  
centre of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
sound their praise eternally.*
  
3. *You are giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!  
Source of grace and fount of blessing,  
let your light upon us shine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine.*

4. *Mortals join the mighty chorus  
which the morning stars began;  
God's own love is reigning o'er us,  
joining people hand in hand.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
victors in the midst of strife;  
joyful music leads us sunward  
in the triumph song of life.*

### **Prayer for and Assurance of Grace**

Source of life, you offer us roots that will feed and sustain us.

**Sometimes we cling to those roots.**

**Sometimes we insist on relying on our own  
roots, our own strength,**

**our own sources of sustenance.**

In Jesus, the True Vine, you invite us to remain connected to

You and to each other,

Spreading as branches of the tree of Love,

Spreading Love and hope into the corners

And crevices of life.

**Sometimes we feel disconnected,  
cut off from the vine,**

**isolated from those things that sustain us.**

**Sometimes we decide we don't need the vine,**

**And then wonder why our leaves droop**

**And we start to wither.**

God of life in abundance,

God who calls us to be fruitful branches,

When we cut ourselves away from the vine,

When we insist on doing things on our own,

When we resist your attempts to prune

and guide us for better growth.

**Forgive our headstrong natures,  
Show us how to reconnect,  
Renew our live to help us bloom.**

*(time of silent prayer)*

Our faith story begins and ends in a garden.  
The God who creates and re-creates us is a gardener,  
Watering and weeding and pruning to give growth.  
This same God calls us to be connected  
And rooted in the soil of love so that we  
Can grow and be fruitful.  
In Christ God forgives us and helps our branches  
Renew our connection to the vine.  
God helps us grow to full flower,  
Rooted in God's love. This is good news!

**Thanks be to God! Hallelujah!**

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

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*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: VU#593 Jesu, Jesu Fill us with your Love**

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*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve  
the neighbours we have from you.*

1. *Kneels at the feet of his friends,  
silently washes their feet,  
master who acts as a slave to them.*

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve  
the neighbours we have from you.*

2. *Kneels at the feet of his friends,  
silently washes their feet,  
master who acts as a slave to them.*

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve  
the neighbours we have from you.*

3. *These are the ones we should serve,  
these are the ones we should love,  
all are neighbours to us and you.*

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve  
the neighbours we have from you.*

4. *Kneel at the feet of our friends,  
silently washing their feet,  
this is the way we should live with you.*

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve  
the neighbours we have from you.*

**Scripture:** 1 John 4: 7-21  
John 15: 1-8

**Special Music:** *From a Distance*  
(sung by Marina Jeffery, Brenda Scarfe and  
Corinne Groff)

## Reflection

**Hymn:** VU#359 **He Came Singing Love** \*^\*

- 1. He came singing love and he lived singing love;  
he died singing love.  
He arose in silence.  
For the love to go on we must make it our song;  
You and I be the singers.*
- 2. He came singing faith and he lived singing faith;  
he died singing faith.  
He arose in silence.  
For the faith to go on we must make it our song;  
You and I be the singers.*
- 3. He came singing hope and he lived singing hope;  
he died singing hope.  
He arose in silence.*



*For the hope to go on we must make it our song;  
You and I be the singers.*

4. *He came singing peace and he lived singing peace;  
he died singing peace.*

*He arose in silence.*

*For the peace to go on we must make it our song;  
You and I be the singers.*

### **Prayers of the Community & The Lord's Prayer**

For all the blessings of this life,

We give thanks to You, Creator God.

For families, friends, colleagues, neighbours and strangers who  
nurture us,

That the love of God may grow within.

That Your love, your word, like a seed

May group to produce in us good fruit.

**May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing  
strong.**

For the leaders of the nations and cities,

That they may lead with strong hearts, gentle hands

And generous spirits,

With compassion and mercy, with wisdom and grace,

May they reflect your presence guiding their actions

And decisions.

**May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing  
strong.**

For those who serve in harms way

Those who live in dangerous places

Those who live in areas of war and strife,

Those who live in fear,

Those who worry about employment, food, bills,

And struggle to find dignity in life.

May your grace bring peace and safety to all people.

**May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.**

For those who suffer from any illness or disease –

Of mind, body or spirit,

Restore these, and all those we carry in our hearts,

To fullness of health –

Health as only you can bring.

May your mercy shower each of us with healing love.

**May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.**

For those who are dying, and for those who have died,

Send forth your comfort and love.

Give solace to those who mourn.

Console those who grieve.

May your grace surround us

Like a mantle upon our heads,

A shawl upon our shoulders,

A hand to hold our own.

**May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.**

**Hymn: VU#481 Sent Forth with God's Blessing**



- Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended, O now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seeds of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
God's grace did invite us, God's love shall unite us  
to work for the kingdom and answer its call.*

2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,  
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.  
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.  
With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving  
give honour to Christ and the name that we bear.

## Benediction

Amen

Postlude



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

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^Prayer written by Katherine Hawker for the Evangelical United Church of Christ. Posted on

[reworship.blogspot.com/search/label/Easter%20%20Year%20B](http://reworship.blogspot.com/search/label/Easter%20%20Year%20B)

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