





# Sunset United Church



May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020– Easter 7/Ascension

Minister: Rev. Tricia Gerhard

Children & Youth Minister: Michelle McConkey

Choir Director: Nancy Edwards

Pianist: Shirley Hill

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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 Candle:

We are here on this Easter season Sunday,  
Celebrating our faith,  
Celebrating our dispersed and yet connected  
Community,  
And celebrating life and ministry of Christ.  
This candle here reminds us  
That the love and life of this place,  
Is bright and present.

**Hallelujah! Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn: MV#14 Where Two or Three Are Gathered \***  
*Where two or three  
are gathered in my name,  
I am there, I am there.*

**Call to Worship**

Christ has risen and has ascended to God  
And yet Christ is here with us today.

**Christ's presence is a mystery.**

God's kingdom does not depend on  
Politics and power,

But is based on peace and justice;

**God's kingdom is a mystery.**

When our lives are tested with trials and suffering,  
We are told to be glad and shout with joy.

**The Christian life is a mystery.**

With this mystery in our hearts  
Let us gather together,  
Separate and yet connected,  
To sing, pray, listen and reflect

**As we explore the mysteries of God.**

**Opening Prayer:**

Holy One,  
Sometimes we find ourselves waiting,  
And we watch as life passes us by.  
Sometimes we find ourselves living,  
And we wish for a moment to be.  
Help us to be in the moment.  
Help us to be in your moment.  
Help us, we pray,  
To be in you.  
Today as we worship.

Tomorrow as we live our lives.  
In all the days to come.  
In Christ's name we ask it.  
Amen.

**Hymn:** VU#389      God is Here \*\*

1. *God is here!*

*As we your people meet  
to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure  
what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us,  
all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of the Spirit  
into open minds and hearts.*

2. *Here are symbols to remind  
us of our lifelong need of grace;  
here are table, font, and pulpit,  
here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching,  
here in silence, as in speech,  
here, in newness and renewal,  
God the Spirit comes to each.*

3. *Here our children find a welcome  
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;  
here as bread and wine are taken,*

*Christ sustains us, as of old.  
Here the servants of the Servant  
seek in worship to explore what  
it means in daily living  
to believe and to adore.*

4. *God of all, of church and kingdom  
in an age of change and doubt  
keep us faithful to the gospel,  
help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication,  
all we have to give, receive;  
we, who cannot live without you,  
we adore you! We believe!*

### **Prayer Seeking Reconciliation**

Too often, God,  
We are hesitant in our proclamation;  
Seeking safe and suitable opportunities to speak of our faith.

Too often, God,  
We are half hearted in our service;  
Reluctant to stand out from the crowd  
Or to attract criticism.

Too often, God,  
We live as if dependent wholly on our own resources;  
Relying on our perceived skills and modest insights.

Too often, God,

We look to the clouds for our inspiration,  
In the vain hope of finding you there.

Forgive the poverty of our efforts and the frailty of our faith  
and open wide our hearts and minds to Your presence and  
the presence of the Risen One in our lives.  
*(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**

**Hymn:** MV#183 I'm Gonna Shout, Shout\*\*\*\*

- 1. I'm gonna shout, shout,  
shout out my love for Jesus, for Jesus!  
I'm gonna shout, shout,  
shout my love for God's most holy child!  
For whatever I might do today,  
at home, at school, at work, at play,  
I've got Jesus' love deep inside of me!*

## WE LISTEN

**Scripture:** Acts 6: 1-14  
John 17: 1-11

**Reflection**

**Special Music**

## WE RESPOND

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

**Lenten Prayers & The Lord's Prayer (sung; VU#959)**

**Hymn:** VU#481      Sent Forth By 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 seed 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.*

## **Commissioning and Benediction**

### **Postlude**



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