



Sunset United Church



May 24th, 2020– Easter 7/Ascension

Minister: Rev. Tricia Gerhard

Children & Youth Minister: Michelle McConkey

Choir Director: Nancy Edwards

Pianist: Shirley Hill

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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