



Sunset United Church

November 7, 2021 – Stewardship Sunday 3
Giving Thanks and Serving



*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 Candles¹

As we gather for worship,
We light this candle to remember
The love that Jesus shared with so many.
Jesus was not selfish with his love.
After Jesus died,
Friends and disciples shared this love.
For generations upon generations,
The love has been shared,
And continues to be shared,
Reminding us that Jesus is with us.
The Affirming Candle's flame is a reminder
Of the commitment we've made as a congregation
To be a place of safety and radical welcome
In a world so often neither of those things
To the LGTBQIA+ and Two Spirit communities.
May these flames be reminders of
Not only Jesus' presence with us,

But also of the radical welcome
We experience and offer.

Call to Worship¹

It is good to give thanks to God,

And sing praises to your name, O God.

Let us declare the steadfast love of God in the morning,

And at night we will speak of God's faithfulness.

With the music of instruments our praise shall arise;

**With our shouts of joy we make known our
thanksgiving.**

For you, O God, have made us glad by your work;

At the work of your hands we sing for joy.

Opening Prayer¹

Jesus, you said that you were among us

As one who serves.

You washed the feet of your disciple and,

In doing so,

Gave us an example of service.

As we come to worship this day,

Help us to fully understand

The example of service you gave us.

Show us how to serve so that we an

Glorify you without calling attention to ourselves.

Show us that in serving,

We can show our gratitude and commitment to you.

Show us that in serving,

We witness to your goodness.

Show us that in serving,

We are offering thanksgiving for all that you have done.

Amen

Hymn VU#312 Praise with Joy the World's Creator²

Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love, and peace,
source and end of human knowledge,
God whose grace shall never cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
power to rescue and release.

Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry,
frees the captive, finds the lost,
heals the sick, upsets religion,
fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence:
Friend and stranger, guest and host.

Praise the Spirit sent among us,
liberating truth from pride,
forging bonds where race or gender,
age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure:
foolishness none dare deride.

Praise the Maker, Christ, and Spirit,
one God in community,
calling Christians to embody
oneness and diversity.
This the world shall see reflected:
God is One and One in Three.

Prayer Seeking Reconciliation

Jesus said:

“Whoever wants to be first must be last of all

And servant of all.” Let us make our confessions about the ways we have been hesitant to serve the needs of the world.

Holy One,
Help us to serve following the example
Of Jesus who offered true service
And not self-righteous service.
Teach us to avoid the type of service
That seeks to impress others,
That seeks external rewards,
That seeks to pick and choose
Who to serve,
And that serves based on our moods and feelings.
Where we have sought to serve others
And have been insensitive to their needs,
And where, in serving,
We have humiliated or belittled others,
Forgive us.
Help us to offer service
That is grounded in our relationship with you,
Service that does not need to calculate results,
And serve that is based on the needs of others.
Help us to have the mind of Christ
And teach us your lifestyle of service.

(Time for silent prayer)

Words of Assurance

Friends, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and gave them an example of servanthood. Know that Jesus even today washed our feet and enables us to walk the path he has modeled for us.

Thanks be to God.

Sung Response

VU#271 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy³ (vs. 1 & 5 only)

There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.

For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind,
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

Sharing the Story

Hymn VU#242 Let All Things Now Living⁴

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night;
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into Light.

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise;
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

WE LISTEN

Scripture 2 Corinthians 9:12-15
 John 13:1-5

Special Music

Reflection

Hymn VU#595 We Are Pilgrims⁵

We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

Offering

As an invitation to the offering let me offer you two very
important words: Thank You. Thank you for the gifts of
money that you give...they come from gratitude not obligation.

Thank you for the ways you live your faith and share
yourselves. Together, through action, giving and living, we

thank God for God's indescribable gift! With hearts full of thanksgiving we offer our gifts not only to the ministry of this church, but of the church locally, nationally and globally.

Hymn VU#356 Seek Ye First⁶ (v.1 and refrain only)

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.

Hallelu, hallelujah.

Offering Prayer

Bless, O God, the gifts that we offer. As we offer them, we dedicate ourselves to you and to your ministry. Help us as your disciple to give, to be committed, to be grateful, to be your witnesses, and to be thankful. In so doing may the gifts which we give bring glory to you.
Amen.

Prayers of the Community and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer response:

You have given us the gifts and talents to serve others
Help us to serve with thanksgiving using the gifts you give.

Hymn VU#352 I Danced in the Morning⁷

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun;
and I came from heaven, and I danced on the earth;
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on.

Refrain

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and left me there on a cross to die.

Refrain

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on.

Refrain

They cut me down and I leap up high;
I am the life that will never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he.

Refrain

Sending Forth and Blessing

Sending Forth Refrain MV#212 Sent Out in Jesus' Name⁸

Sent out in Jesus' name, our hands are ready now
to make the world the place in which the kingdom comes.
(2x)

The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love, of justice and of peace.
The task is ours to do, to set it really free.
O, help us to obey, and carry out your will.

Postlude



Minister: Rev. Tricia Gerhard (she/her)

Children & Youth Minister: Michelle McConkey (she/her)

Choir Director: Corinne Groff (she/her)

Pianist: Shirley Hill (she/her)



¹ Worship liturgy adapted from the Called to be the Church Congregational Giving Program: Discipleship is Stewardship. Copyright 2021 The United Church of Canada/L'Eglise Unie due Canada. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike License.

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⁸ Words and music: traditional song, Cuba. English trans. Jorge Maldonado; arr. *More Voices*, 2007. English translation copyright © 1988 ABINGDON PRESS (Administered by THE COPYRIGHT COMPANY NASHVILL, TN.). Reprinted under One License 605683.

