



# Sunset United Church

October 10, 2021  
Thanksgiving Sunday

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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**

**Land Acknowledgement**

On this Thanksgiving Sunday, we give thanks for the abundance that we receive through the cultivation of and the living on of this land. This land where we live, work and worship. We acknowledge that this land was lived on and cared for by our indigenous siblings long before our ancestors settled here. In particular we acknowledge that we are on Treaty 4 Land, the land of the Cree, Saulteaux, Dakota, Lakota, Nakota, and formerly Blackfoot, as well as the homeland of the Metis Nation. We give thanks for their knowledge and love of the land, and we acknowledge the hurt that has been done. May we work towards

reconciliation so that we can live with gratitude together –  
for we are all treaty people.

**Hymn:** MV #18 Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary<sup>1</sup>

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
pure and holy tried and true;  
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.**

**Call to Worship**<sup>2</sup>

For the bounty of the harvest,  
For the colours of the fall,

**Thanks be to God.**

For the miracle of bird migration,  
For the ingenuity of hibernation,

**Thanks be to God.**

For the glories of the earth all around us,  
**We give thanks to God, our Creator.**

In a spirit of humility and thankfulness,  
Come let us worship God as one  
Through the faith we share in Jesus.  
Amen.

**Opening Prayer**<sup>3</sup>

Holy One,  
We praise you for these simple gifts  
On an autumn day:  
The squirrels running across lawns  
Tiny nuthatches at the feeder,  
The way thanksgiving springs to our lips  
As praise lifts our hearts.  
Before we ask, we are forgiven.

Before we notice, we are blessed.  
Before we pray, we are already held in your love.  
For the blessing of your unending grace,  
We give you thanks. Amen.

**Hymn: MV#135 Called by Earth and Sky<sup>4</sup>**

**Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.  
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,  
called by earth and sky.**

**Precious these mountains, ancient sands; vast fragile land.  
Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong, Creation's faithful  
song.**

**Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.  
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,  
called by earth and sky.**

**Precious the fire that lights our way, bright dawning day.  
Free of passion, sorrows undone, our faith and justice one.**

**Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.  
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,  
called by earth and sky, called by earth and sky.**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving<sup>5</sup>**

O God,  
We thank you for this earth, our home;  
For the wide sky and the blessed sun,  
For the ocean and streams,  
For the towering trees and the whispering wind,  
For the trees and green grass.

We thank you for our senses

By which we hear the songs of birds,  
And see the splendor of fields of golden wheat,  
And taste autumn's fruit,  
Rejoice in the feel of snow,  
And smell the breath of spring flowers.

Grant us a heart opened wide to all this beauty;  
And save us from being so blind  
That we pass unseeing  
When even the common thorn bush  
Is aflame with your glory.

For each new dawn is filled with infinite possibilities  
For new beginnings and new discoveries.  
Life is constantly changing and renewing itself.

In this new day of new beginnings with God,  
All things are possible.  
We are restored and renewed in a joyous awakening  
to the wonder that our lives are and, yet, can be. Amen

## Sharing the Story

**Hymn:** MV#185 Ev'ry Day Is a Day of Thanksgiving<sup>6</sup>

**Ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving.  
God, you've been so good to me.  
Ev'ry day you're blessing me.  
Ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving.  
I will glorify you,  
O my Lord, today!**

**You keep blessing me,  
blessing me, blessing me.**

You opened the door that I might see,  
you're blessing me.  
And you keep blessing me,  
blessing me, blessing me.  
I will glorify my Lord, today.

*(Repeat)*

## WE LISTEN

**Scripture:** Joel 2: 21-27  
Matthew 6: 25-33

**Special Music**

**Reflection**

**Hymn:** VU#517 Praise God for the Harvest<sup>7</sup>

Praise God for the harvest of orchard and field,  
Praise God for the people who gather their yield,  
The long hours of labour, the skills of a team,  
The patience of science, the power of machine.

Praise God for the harvest that comes from afar,  
from market and harbour, the sea and the shore:  
food packed and transported, and gathered and grown  
by God-given neighbours, unseen and unknown.

Praise God for the harvest that's quarried and mined,  
then sifted, and smelted, and shaped, and refined;  
for oil and for iron, for copper and coal,  
praise God, who in love has provided them all.

Praise God for the harvest of science and skill,  
the urge to discover, create, and fulfill:  
for dreams and inventions that promise to gain  
a future more hopeful, a world more humane.

Praise God for the harvest of mercy and love  
from leaders and peoples, who struggle and serve  
for fairness and kindness, that all may be led  
in freedom and safety, and all may be fed.

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.

Hymn: VU#520 We Plough the Fields<sup>8</sup>

We plough the fields and  
scatter the good seed on the land,  
but it is fed and watered  
by your almighty hand;  
you send the snow in winter,  
the warmth to swell the grain,  
the breezes and the sunshine,  
and soft refreshing rain.

*Refrain* All good gifts around us  
are sent from heaven above;  
we thank you, God,

O holy God, for all your love.

You only are the maker  
of all things near and far;  
you paint the wayside flower,  
you light the evening star;  
the winds and waves obey you,  
by you the birds are fed;  
much more to us, your children,  
you give us daily bread.

*Refrain* All good gifts around us  
are sent from heaven above;  
we thank you, God,  
O holy God, for all your love.

We thank you then, O Maker,  
for all things bright and good,  
the seed-time and the harvest,  
our life, our health, our food;  
accept the gifts we offer  
for all your love imparts,  
and, what from us you long for,  
our humble, thankful hearts.

*Refrain* All good gifts around us  
are sent from heaven above;  
we thank you, God,  
O holy God, for all your love.

Benediction  
Amen

*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)



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<sup>3</sup> Prayer written by Wendy MacLean. Found in Gathering: Pentecost 2 2021 (Year B), page 42. Used with permission.

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<sup>5</sup> Prayer written by Walter Rauschenbusch (1861-1918). Found on reworship.blogspot.com.

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<sup>7</sup> Words: Brian Wren 1968, Rev. 1995. Music: English traditional melody, arr Norman L. Warren ca. 1982. Words copyright © 1978 and arrangement copyright © 1982 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted under One License 605683.

<sup>8</sup> Words: Matthais Claudius 1782; trans. Jane Montgomery Campbell 1861, alt. Music: Johann Abraham Peter Schulz 1800. Reprinted under One License 605683.

