

Sunset United Church



October 11, 2020 - Thanksgiving Sunday

Minister: Rev. Tricia Gerhard

Children & Youth Minister: Michelle McConkey

Choir Director: Corinne Groff

Pianist: Shirley Hill

Reader: Christa Eidsness

Special Music: Ross Macnab, Phil Moleski, Dave Warden

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:

The Christ candle is lit,

But what does it mean? Why have we gathered?

The Christ candle is lit,

But does it touch our hearts?

Why do we keep gathering?

The Christ candle is lit,

But does it change anything?

It's a light that flickers.
It's small and seemingly insignificant.
It's made of ordinary material.
It's rather unremarkable.
Yet, still, it speaks to us of Christ
And Christ's presence here.

Hymn: MV#18 Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary *

*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:

God stretches out the heavens,
And shapes the earth.

Come and give thanks!

God raises up the mountains
And pours water into the seas.

Come and give thanks!

God calls forth plants from the soil
And forms animals in infinite variety.

Come and give thanks!

God breaths upon us
And fills us with life

Come lift your voices in praise!

God gives our lives meaning
Through laughter and tears

Come lift your voices in praise!

God touches our hearts
Through family and friends.

Come lift your voices in praise!

God loves us and blesses us

Come and worship!

God loves us and overwhelms us with generosity

Come and worship!

God loves us and surrounds us with love
in abundance!

Come and worship!

Opening Prayer ^^

Gracious One, in joy and in sorrow,

We gather.

God of All,

We have set aside this day of thanksgiving,

Because we sometimes have difficulty remembering

To live with thanks-giving.

We sometimes have difficulty remembering

To be thanks-giving.

So – thank you,

For everything!

Open our hearts to realize

Where thanks needs to be given.

Open our spirits to share the words.

Open our lives to be your love.

As disciples of Jesus, we ask this.

May it be so. Amen.

1. *For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God.
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.*

2. *In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will be done.*

3. *For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.*

Prayer Seeking reconciliation

O God,
So often we take you for granted.
We take for granted
That you answer our prayers,
That you heal us and make us whole.
We take for granted that you love us.
Forgive us for not appreciating
Your grace and your presence in our lives.
Help us to be more thankful.
Give us faith to see you in everything
And everyone around us,
So that we may be truly grateful.
In Christ's name we pray.

(time of silence to offer personal prayers)

Affirmation of Forgiveness

Sung Response: MV#95 How Deep the Peace

*How deep the peace, the confidence,
of those whose wrongs are forgiven.
How deep the peace, the confidence,
of those whose hearts are healed.*

Sharing the Story – Bear Says Thanks

Hymn: MV#185 Ev'ry Day is a Day of Thanksgiving

1. *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!*

2. *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.*

2. *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!*

4. *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.*

WE LISTEN

Scripture: Luke 17: 11-19

Reflection

Special Music: "A Blessing of Music"

(sung by Ross Macnab, Phil Moleski, and Dave Warden)

A Blessing of Music

By Joseph Martin

May your days be filled with music,
May your path be paved with song.
May the sounds of forever lift you up and keep you strong.

May your heart resound with laughter,
May your life be tuned for praise.
May the hymns of faith bring you hope.
May the rhythms of your life bring your joy.
May the harmony of friendship bring you love.

May the maker bless and keep you.
May God's music guide your ways.
May God's gentle whisper always comfort you with grace.

May the voices of angels sing you peace.

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

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

(sung VU#959)

Hymn: VU#520 We Plough the Fields and Gather

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1. *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.*

2. *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.*

3. *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.*

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude



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