



Sunset United Church

October 17, 2021 - Stewardship Sunday

Gratitude and Discipleship



*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.

Hymn: MV#21 Open Our Hearts²

**Open our hearts, open our minds.
Open our lives to you O loving God.**

Call to Worship¹

We gather to give thanks, O Creator God.

Holy One, we are here.

Be with us as we pray and sing together.

Holy One, we are here.

Be with us in our words, in our listening,
And in our hearts.

Holy One, we are here.

We are here to worship,
To remember the gifts flowing from you,
O Creator God,
And to give thanks.

Opening Prayer

God of blessings,
You touch our lives with love
And blessings all around us.
We come to this worship today
Ready to hear your voice working through us,
Ready to celebrate your spirit among us.
Help us to be open to your Word

And to answer your call to each of us.
Amen.

Hymn: VU#820 Make a Joyful Noise³

Refrain **Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Worship your God with gladness.
Make a joyful noise all the earth.
Come to this place with a song!**

**Know that your God has made you.
Know it's to God we belong.
And come to this place
with joyfulness and praise.
Worship your God with a song!**

Refrain

**Enter these gates, thanksgiving.
enter these courts with praise.
Sing thanks to your God
and bless the holy Name.
Worship your God with a song.**

Refrain

**Ages through endless ages,
season of endless years,
the love of our Maker
ever shall endure
Worship your God with a song.**

Refrain

Prayer Seeking Reconciliation

Gracious God,
We know that we can get caught up
In feeling powerless
And uncertain of our situation.
We find it hard to see the blessings
That surround us.
We can get rooted in despair.,
Caught up in confusion or anger
At what is happening in the world.
Forgive us we pray...

(Time for silent prayer)

Words of Assurance

Our journey of discipleship
Does not end with powerlessness
Or uncertainty.
Love wins;
Through Jesus we know that hope is eternal.
God's love and grace is all around us,
Freely and generously given;
It is within us and flows through us.
God's love is everlasting and sustains us on the journey.
Thanks be to God.

Sung Response: MV#90 Don't Be Afraid (2x)⁴

Don't be afraid.
My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid.
My love is stronger and I have promised,
promised to be always near.

Sharing the Story

Hymn: MV#30 It's a Song of Praise to the Maker⁵

It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the thrush sings high in the tree.
It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the gray whale sings in the sea.

Refrain And by the Spirit you and I
 can join our voice to the holy cry
 and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's a call of life to the Giver
when waves and waterfalls roar.
It's a call of life to the Giver
when high tides break on the shore.

Refrain

It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
the bumblebees hum along.
It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
the summer breeze joins the song,

Refrain

It's a chorus of all creation;
it's sung by all living things.
It's a chorus of all creation;
a song the universe sings,

Refrain

WE LISTEN

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:1-5 (6-15)
Luke 19:1-10

Special Music

Reflection

Hymn: VU#291 All Things Bright and Beautiful⁶

Refrain All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful:
in love, God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours,
God made their tiny wings.

Refrain

The purple headed mountains,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky;

Refrain

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden:
God made them every one.

Refrain

The rocky mountain splendour,
the lone wolf's haunting call,
the great lakes and the prairies,
the forest in the fall;

Refrain

God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God our maker,
who has made all things well.

Refrain

Offering

We give our gifts of treasure and time,
Not out of obligation but in gratitude
For the blessing of God's love freely given.
We remember our calling to walk in the way of Jesus,
Who is generous to all.
You continue to live into your call of faith
By giving to this ministry even in the toughest of times.

Hymn: VU#542 We Give You But Your Own⁷

We give you but your own, What e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone, We give it gratefully.

Offering Prayer

Generous God,
We bring ourselves, our gifts, our talents to you.
Bless each one of us.

Take us, our gifts, and all you have made us to be
That your work may be done
In this place and in the world.
Through the power of your presence,
And in your name, we pray.
Amen

Prayers of the Community and The Lord's Prayer

God calls us to be a praying people,
So let us join our hearts in prayer.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of God, saying:
We give you thanks, Generous God.

For the earth and the goodness of creation,
The power of the earth to sustain us,
The wisdom of people to care,
To learn and to transform,
Let us give thanks:
We give you thanks, Generous God.

For the people who care and heal,
The people who listen deeply,
The ones who are the hands
And feet of Christ in the world,
Let us give thanks:
We give you thanks, Generous God.

For the people you guide and teach,
The ones who mentor and educate,
The people who inspire and create,
For their wisdom and guidance,
Let us give thanks:

We give you thanks, Generous God.

For those who stand up and speak out in truth,
The people who work endlessly for justice,
For liberation, for peace,
The people who risk their lives for others,
For those who walk in the way of Jesus,
Let us give thanks:

We give you thanks, Generous God.

Let us gather our voices in the prayer
That Jesus taught:

**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#296 This Is God's Wondrous World⁸

**This is God's wondrous world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.**

**This is God's wondrous world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
God's hand the wonders wrought.**

**This is God's wondrous world:
the birds their carols raise;**

the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world:
God shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass or mountain pass,
God's voice speaks everywhere.

This is God's wondrous world:
O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.

This is God's wondrous world:
why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:
God reigns, let earth be glad!

Sending Forth and Blessings

As you go from this place,
Go with trust in God,
The source of our blessings.
Go with the Spirit of gratitude,
Looking for the people and places to share generously,
As we are a people rooted in God's abundance.

Sending Forth Refrain:

VU#242 Let All Things Now Living⁹ (*verse 1 only*)
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.

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.

² Words and music: Jim Strathdee; Words and music copyright © Jim and
Jean Strathdee (Desert Flower Music), PO Box 1476 Carmichael, CA
956091 (916) 481-2999. www.strathdeemusic.com. Reprinted under One
License 605683.

³ Words: Linnea Good 1991. Music: Linnea Good 1991; arr. David Kai
1994. Words and music copyright © 1991 Borealis Music. Arrangement
copyright © 1994 David Kai. Reprinted under One License 605683.

⁴ Words: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1995. Music: John L. Bell,
1995. Words and music copyright © 1995, 2007 by WGRG, Iona
Community, Scotland, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., excl. N. American
agent. Reprinted under One License 605683.

⁵ Words: Ruth Duck, 1992. Music: Ron Klusmeier, 1992. Words
copyright © 1992 by GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago,
IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800-442-1358. Music copyright © 1992 by
Ron Klusmeier, www.musiklus.com. Reprinted under One License
605683.

⁶ Words: Cecil Frances Alexander 1848, alt. Music: 17th-century English
melody; adapt. And arr. Martin Shaw 1915. Arrangement copyright ©
1921 (renewed) J. Curwen & Sons Ltd. (London). All right for the U.S.

and Canada controlled by G. Schirmer, Inc. (ASCAP). Reprinted under One License 605683.

⁷ Words: William Walsham How 1858, alt. Music: Johann Balthasar König 1738; adapt. William Henry Havergal 1847. Reprinted under One License 605683.

⁸ Words: Maltbie Davenport Babcock 1901, alt. Music: English traditional melody; adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard 1915; adapt. Stanley Oliver 1929. Reprinted under One License 605683.

⁹ Words: Katherine K. Davis 1939, alt. Music: Welsh folk melody, desc. Katherine K. Davis 1938. Words and descant copyright © 1939, 1966 E.C. Schirmer Music Co. Reprinted under One License 605683.

