



# Sunset United Church

October 17, 2021 - Stewardship Sunday

*Gratitude and Discipleship*

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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<sup>1</sup>

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 Hearts<sup>2</sup>

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

### **Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>**

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 Noise<sup>3</sup>

*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)<sup>4</sup>

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 Maker<sup>5</sup>

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 Beautiful<sup>6</sup>

*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 Own<sup>7</sup>

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 World<sup>8</sup>**

**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**

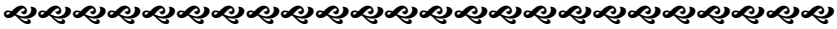
As you go from this place,  
Go with trust in God,  
The source of our blessings.  
Go with the Spirit of gratitude,  
Looking for the people and places to share generously,  
As we are a people rooted in God's abundance.

### **Sending Forth Refrain:**

VU#242 Let All Things Now Living<sup>9</sup> (*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)



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