



Sunset United Church

October 24, 2021 – Stewardship Sunday 2

Giving as Abundant Witness



*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

We live with such abundance.

**Yet people go hungry every day and try to exist below
the poverty line.**

We have so many blessings.

**Yet people try to sleep when they are cold, fearful and
unsafe.**

We have been supplied with all the seed we need.

**Yet people are limited based on their colour, race,
creed, ability, identity, age, orientation, education and
language.**

God calls us to be a thankful people.

In this worship experience,

May we be reminded that from our abundance

We are called to love and serve others,

Reaching both inward and outward.

**This is a sacred invitation to be part of God's mission
in all aspects of creation.**

Opening Prayer¹

Gather us in, O God,

And pull us closer to the sacred center

Of our existence.

Ground us in your abundant blessing

And a limitless supply of both seed and bread

Help us to see the abundance
Of creation all around us,
So that we, too,
Can engage in acts of joyful witness
And build a community where everyone is wanted,
Included and affirmed.
Amen.

Hymn: VU#218 We Praise You, O God²

We praise you, O God our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers,
through trial and tempest, companion and guide.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.

With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

Prayer Seeking Reconciliation

Siblings in Faith,
God's love is limitless.
This is nothing we have done
That moves us outside of God's grace,
And so we can own our actions,
Knowing we are loved.

Giver who blesses us abundantly,
We acknowledge there are times
When we have held that abundance
To only benefit ourselves.
There have been times when we've treated
Your abundance as entitlement,
Times when we've only scattered
The good seed amongst those who
Reflect our own image,
And times when the bread we provide
Is limited by a list of conditions of our making.
We have engaged in service for the compliments,
The pats on the back, and gifts
Instead of seeing our service
As living out our thankfulness.
Help us own our actions
And the pain they have inflicted on others
And ourselves.
Help us shift from seeing our lives
Through the lens of abundance in life
Toward life in abundance,
So that with you,
In Christ and through the Holy Spirit,
We can change the world
One act of gospel love at a time.

(Time for silent prayer)

Words of Assurance

Friends, reconciliation and healing are possible.
Forgiveness and renewal are offered to us
Without limitations, precondition, or exception.

In God's grace we are all forgiven,
Reconciled and renewed.

In God's love, we are made whole.

**In this sacred community
we embrace our imperfections,
trusting in God's abundant blessing.**

We are loved.

You and I are loved

As people created in the image of God.

Sung Response: VU#376 Spirit of the Living God³ (*v.1 only*)

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Sharing the Story

Hymn: VU#230 Heaven Is Singing for Joy⁴

**Heaven is singing for joy, hallelujah!
for in your life and in mine is shining the glory of God.**

Refrain **Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**Heaven is singing for joy, hallelujah!
for your life and mine unite in the love of our God.**

Refrain

**Heaven is singing for joy, hallelujah!
for your life and mine will always bear witness to God.**

Refrain

WE LISTEN

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:8, 11-12

Special Music

Reflection

Hymn: VU#518 As Those of Old Their First-fruits Brought⁵

As those of old their first-fruits brought
of vineyard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good,
the source of bounteous yield;
so we today our first-fruits bring;
the wealth of this good land,
of farm and market, shop and home,
of mind and heart and hand.

A world in need now summons us
to labour, love, and give,
to make our life an offering
to God, that all may live.
The church of Christ is calling us
to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed, by Christ-like love,
all life in Christ made new.

With gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best to you,
not just to serve your cause, but share
your love with neighbours too.
O God, who gave yourself to us

in Jesus Christ, your son,
help us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.

Offering

Each of us gives from the abundance God has given us. Each of our gifts is different, yet all are necessary and all are rooted in the same sense of gratitude and discipleship. Together we respond to God's abundance in our lives so that our offerings represent an overflowing expression of thanks and commitment to God's mission in this community, and through the Mission and Service across Canada and around the world.

Hymn: VU#542 We Give You But Your Own⁶

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

Loving One, bless the expressions of our commitment to your mission in the world. Together with our time and talent, may they embody our continued response to the abundance you provide so that others may share in the blessings you provide. 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.

Hymn: MV#209 Go Make a Diff'rence⁷

Go make a diff'rence.
We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence
in the world.
(repeat)

We are the salt of the earth,
called to let the people see
the love of God for you and me.
We are the light of the world,
not to be hidden but be seen.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

Go make a diff'rence.
We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence
in the world.
(repeat)

We are the hands of Christ
reaching out to those in need,
the face of God for all to see.
We are the spirit of hope;
we are the voice of peace.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

Go make a diff'rence.
We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence
in the world.

(repeat)

So let your love shine on,
let it shine for all to see.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.
And the spirit of Christ
will be with us as we go.
Go make diff'rence in the world.

Go make a diff'rence.
We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence
in the world.

(repeat)

Sending Forth and Blessing

Sending Forth Refrain

VU#964 Go Now in Peace⁸
Go now in peace, go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you everywhere,
Everywhere you may go.

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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