



Sunset United Church

October 3, 2021

World Communion Sunday



*Sunset United, located on Treaty 4 Territory,
is an Affirming community of faith. All are welcome here.*

WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Music

Opening Hymn: MV#14 Where Two or Three Are Gathered¹

**Where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there, I am there.**

Lighting the Christ and Affirming Candles²

Today we light this candle with the renewed recognition that congregations throughout the world have and will be lighting their Christ candles too. While one flame on its own brings affirmation of Christ's presence here in this place, flames across the world affirm that Christ is indeed present everywhere and anywhere Christ's followers gather to worship. May the light of this candle remind us of our connection to the community of the faithful globally. May the light of the Affirming candle stand as witness to our

commitment to being a place of radical welcome for all
who find themselves here.

Call to Worship²

Come to my banquet!
That's what he said.
He welcomes even people in rags,
The angry and hurt,
Those without status, money or fame.
Bring in the wayfarer, downtrodden beggars,
The hungry, disabled, and sick,
And the weary.
Those who hide from vie.
Seek out those you do not see.
Remember to include the people you do not want,
Or like...
That's what he said.
So this banquet has become the Banquet.
Do not drop the invitations;
Hand them out in person...
Don't be afraid.
He said bring them all in -
Sit them in places like this:
Those thought last
Are to be first.
Each and every one in the world is coming.
No one is to be left out.
Love set the Banquet.
Love seats the Banquet table.

Opening Prayer²

Holy Mystery,
Your circle is wide and includes
The most amazingly wonderful array
Of beautifully created folk.
The languages we speak
Are like a chorus of every sound of creation.
The gifts and abilities with which
You have blessed us
Encircle the world in creativity.
You call us “good”.
May we be committed to being a welcoming people,
Inclusive and accepting.
Grant us the faith that transforms
Our world as we feast at this table today.
Amen.

Hymn: MV#145 Draw the Circle Wide³

Refrain (repeat after each verse)

Draw the circle wide.

Draw it wider still.

**Let this be our song,
no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.**

**God the still point of the circle,
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms.**

Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call.

Let the dreams we dream
be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door.

Prayer Seeking Reconciliation⁴

Gracious God,
We often fail to recognize
That in our humanity, we are,
All of us, your children,
Regardless of status, race, creed or situation.

**Forgive us and show us
The pathway we need to follow
To obtain that forgiveness.**

We forget that your son was human
And showed us how to be the best of ourselves,
In humility and in love.

**Forgive us and help us
To live by Jesus' example.**

Remind us, O God, of why we are here
In this place and at this time
On this earth and what purpose
You have for us,

For we have forgotten.

Forgive us and direct us

On the right pathway to compassion.

Merciful One, we ask for your grace,

that we may each achieve

the potential intended for us,

as we try to follow the example

of your son, our brother, and teacher.

Amen

Words of Assurance

Sharing the Story

Hymn: MV#195 Long Ago and Far Away⁵

Long ago and far away

Jesus lived and worked and prayed

healed the sick and the fearful and lonely

lived his life to show us God's way.

Refrain

Stretched his arms out as he said

Fill the cup and share the bread

Remember me in love and joy

and blessing

Jesus gathered the children around him

spoke of Love and the joy to be found

told them stories of wisdom and wonder

God's creation in all that's around.

Refrain

Jesus called all his friends to be with him
share the bread and the cup once again
life to you I will offer it gladly
love will be with you right to the end.

Refrain

WE LISTEN

Scripture: Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Special Music

Reflection

Hymn: MV#194 Bread of Life, Feed My Soul⁶

Bread of life, feed my soul,
as the presence of the Spirit
makes me whole.

Bread of life, fill my heart
with the grace and mercy you impart.

I have heard your voice calling,
“Come, my friend, and share
in the feast that is laid out for you
to show how much I care.”

Bread of life, help me live
a life as pure and true as Jesus did.

Bread of life, help me see
the boundless love of Christ
for you and me.

I have heard your voice calling,
“Come, my friend, and share
in the feast that is laid out for you
to show how much I care.”

Bread of life, feed my soul,
as the presence of the Spirit
makes me whole.

Bread of life, fill my heart
with the grace and mercy you impart.

Communion⁷

Invitation

This table.....generous welcome

To this table we bring our fears and our dreaming.

The risen.....light and love

With hundreds of millions

of our siblings worldwide,

we are gathered by God’s invitation –

in all our diversity

and in all our difference.

The call...

The Great Thanksgiving

May God be with you

And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to God.
Let us give God our thanks and praise.
It is right to give God
Our thanks and our praise.
God's reign among.....and in connection.
When God commanded Abraham and Sarah
To venture far from home,
They became rooted in their growing identity
As people of blessing.
When God.....journey of becoming.
When royals and rulers
Sought power over the people
Instead of following God's challenge
To serve the people,
God planted prophets like
Stubborn weeds to disrupt their control.
Yet we.....among us.
Though the unfolding of our lives is a mystery,
All of us long for wholeness.
We are the old and the young,
We are rich and the haughty,
We are the meek and the humble
We are the proud and the strong:
We are God's own together.
In our belonging,
We find our home
In the living hope of the risen Christ.
In that trust and hope....

Words of Institution & Blessing

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.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer after Communion

Let us join together in prayer once more:
Loving One,
We have received the gift of grace at your table.
Take what we have said and done here,
Planting it like a weed in our hearts.
May your mustard seed of love
So persist within us
That we become ever more a people
In service of your vision.
May you breathe into our souls, O Spirit,
A persistent passion to join
With our siblings worldwide
To live your love, compassion and justice.
Amen.

Hymn: MV#209 Go, Make a Difference⁸

Go make a difference. We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.

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 difference in the world.

Go make a difference. We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.

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 difference in the world.

Go make a difference. We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.

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

Benediction
Amen

Postlude



Thankyou.

to our Worship Hosts from House Group 1:
October 2nd Susan Black, Sarah Black



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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⁴ Prayer written by Laura Turnbull. Found in Gathering: Pentecost 2 2021 (Year B) Prayers for Worship, page 40. Used with permission.

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⁷ Communion liturgy written by Gord Dunbar. Found in Gathering: Pentecost 2 2021 (Year B) page, 71 & 72. Used with permission.

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