



Sunset United Church

October 31, 2021 - Halloween 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

Lighting the Christ and Affirming Candles

Call to Worship

All Hallow's Eve is here,
And we gather to worship.

As we do,

May we be open to the
Seemingly strange and spooky ways
The Spirit is present in our midst.

We are open and ready to worship

On this Halloween day.

So we pray using the ancient words

Of a traditional Scottish prayer

Connecting the past to our present:

From ghoulies and ghosties and long-leggedy beasties

And things that go bump in the night,

Good Lord, deliver us!

Opening Prayer¹

God of Mysteries,
As we enter this worship
In this season of Halloween,
Where witches and ghosts
Can be friends,
May we recognize you when you knock
At the door when we least expect you.
Give us the courage to recognize you
Even when we can't prove it is you.
And may today's words –
"Do not be afraid"
Give us courage this day,
And always.
Amen.

Hymn VU#201 Come, Holy Ghost²

**Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire
and lighten with celestial fire;
thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.**

**Thy blessed unction from above
is comfort, life, and fire of love;
enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our blinded sight;**

**anoint and cheer our soiled face
with the abundance of thy grace;
keep far our foes; give peace at home:
where thou art guide no ill can come.**

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and thee of both to be but one,
that though the ages all along
this still may be our endless song:

Praise to God, to Christ the Word,
and to the Spirit: all adored. Amen.

Scripture Mark 6:45-51

Story And Bear Gets Scared

Hymn MV#90 Don't Be Afraid³

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.

Celebrating Baptism

Tanner David Benjamin
Son of Erin and Eric Benjamin
Brother of Tyson Benjamin
Godson of Adam Benjamin and Kay Benjamin

Introduction of Sacrament and Child

Vows of the Parents

Vows of the Congregation

We, as a community of faith, promise to care for this child by our actions and our prayers. We are eager to surround him and his family with our love and our care. We are, by this affirmation, inseparably bound with them. We promise to support and nurture all children, committing ourselves as a community to live in love as Jesus did. We commit ourselves to sharing our faith with Tanner, as together, we walk with God.

The United Church Creed VU#918

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Act of Baptism

Welcoming the Child into the Community

Special Music

WE LISTEN

Halloween's Roots

Hymn MV#44 Shadow and Substance⁴

Shadow and substance, wonder and mystery,
spell-binding spinner of atoms and earth;
soul of the cosmos, personal and energy,
source of our being, we sign of your worth.

We are your image, formed in community;
sisters and brothers of Adam and Eve.
You gave us colour, custom and history;
Teach us to honour what others receive.

Naming the nameless Spirit of unity,
scanning the heavens for signs of your care;
God of the ages, give us humility;
guide us to mystical union in prayer.

Scripture: Luke 24: 36-43

Reflection

Hymn VU#290 Nothing Can Trouble⁵

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
Those who seek God shall never go wanting.

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
God alone fills us.

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 VU#713 I See a New Heaven⁶

Refrain I see a new heaven.
I see a new earth as the old one will pass away,
where the fountain of life flows
and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.

There, there on the banks
of a river bright and free,
yielding her fruit, firm in her root,
the Tree of Life will be.

Refrain

There, there where death dies
and our lives are born again,
body and soul, struggling but whole
like flowers after the rain.

Refrain

There, there where the darkness
brings visions from above.
There where the night, bearing new light,
reveals the promise of love.

Refrain

**There, there where we work
with the love of healing hands
Labour we must, true to our trust
to build a promised new land.**

Sending Forth and Blessing

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 liturgy shared by Pastor Iona Dickinson, University City United Church, United Church of Christ, San Diego, California. Used with her permission.

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