



# Sunset United Church



October 4, 2020

World Communion Sunday

Minister: Rev. Tricia Gerhard

Children & Youth Minister: Michelle McConkey

Choir Director: Corinne Groff

Pianist: Shirley Hill

Special Music: Corinne Groff and Dave Warden

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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 Candle:**

The Christ candle is lit,

But what does it mean? Why have we gathered?

The Christ candle is lit,

But does it touch our hearts?

Why do we keep gathering?

The Christ candle is lit,

But does it change anything?

**It's a light that flickers.**

**It's small and seemingly insignificant.**

It's made of ordinary material.  
It's rather unremarkable.  
Yet, still, it speaks to us of Christ.

Hymn: MV#130 Rise Up, Rise Up \*

*Rise up, rise up, rise up, O my soul.  
Rise up and sing this blessing to God's name.  
Rise up, rise up, rise up, O my soul.  
Rise up and sing this blessing to God's name.*

**Call to Worship:** ^^

What a tremendous day! We gather to celebrate!

**With people from around the world,**

**We join as partners on a journey.**

We sing thanksgiving! We sing hope!

We are the church, strong and resilient in Christ.

**With one voice,**

**We proclaim God's inclusiveness.**

**With one voice,**

**We gather around the world today.**

**Opening Prayer**

Hymn: VU#389 God is Here \*\*

1. *God is here! As we your people  
meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure  
what it is in Christ we share:  
Here, as in the world around us,  
all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of the Spirit  
into open minds and hearts.*

2. *Here are symbols to remind us  
of our lifelong need of grace;  
here are table, font and pulpit,  
here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching,  
here in silence, as in speech,  
here in newness and renewal  
God the Spirit comes to each.*
  
3. *Here our children find a welcome  
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;  
here as bread and wine are taken,  
Christ sustains us as of old.  
Here the servants of the Servant  
seek in worship to explore  
what it means in daily living  
to believe and to adore.*
  
4. *God of all, of church and kingdom,  
in an age of change and doubt,  
keep us faithful to the gospel,  
help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication,  
all we have to give, receive;  
we who cannot live without you,  
we adore you! We believe.*

**Prayer Seeking reconciliation**

O God,

We yearn to be a community of believers,  
United in your Spirit.

And yet we are fraught with divisions:  
Denominational, political, theological.  
We are weighed down by tensions,  
And the things that break us apart.  
Forgive us, Loving One, for this.  
Help us to learn to live in community,  
Loving one another,  
in spite of our differences,  
and respecting one another in everything  
that we do and say.  
Help us to be as you call us,  
One in heart and mind,  
As we live into your call  
of compassion and love.

*(time of silence to offer personal prayers)*

### Affirmation of Forgiveness

Sung Response: MV#99 Stand, O Stand Firm \*\*\*

*Stand, O stand firm,  
Stand, O stand firm,  
Stand, O stand firm  
And see what our God can do.*

### Sharing the Story

Hymn: VU#249 Rejoice in the Lord Always \*\*\*\*

*Rejoice in the Lord always  
and again I say rejoice! (clap, clap)  
Rejoice in the Lord always  
and again I say rejoice! (clap, clap)*

*Rejoice, rejoice,  
and again I say rejoice! (clap, clap)*

## **WE LISTEN**

**Scripture:** Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9 12-20

**Reflection:**

**Special Music:** Take and Eat By Gene Grier

I eat the bread that you have broken.  
I drink the wine that you have poured for me.  
I do this in remembrance of your sacrifice.

I hear the words that you have spoken.  
I feel the love that you have given me.  
I know that I will be with you in paradise.

So I take and eat the living bread of life prepared for me. And  
I take and drink the giving wine you poured to set me free.

○ Lord I pray that you will fill my heart.  
○ Lord I pray that you will make me whole.  
○ Lord of life please help me quench my thirsty soul.

I will remember as I take and eat,  
The greatest sacrifice you made for me.  
○ precious Lord I will prepare myself for thee.

So I take and eat the living bread of life prepared for me.  
And I take and drink the giving wine you poured  
to set me free.

## **Celebrating Communion**

From the beginning,

Followers of Christ have broken bread together.

**Gathered at tables fancy and simple,  
Sharing simple loaves of bread,  
Or full meals.**

In this era of pandemic and separation

We continue to gather together.

**Sitting in our homes,  
With our own supplies,  
But linked together by  
The miracle of technology.**

The meal we share is hosted...

...the members of our community.

**Let us break bread together in our homes.**

## ***Great Thanksgiving***

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Feel the presence of the Holy in your lives.

**Calling us, gathering us  
into a global community.**

We offer the God who is in each of us, our prayers

**With the presence of God in us,**

**We share our fears, our hopes, our dreams, our  
thanks**

God, you gave Creation life...

...With whom we share the world.

**We sing songs and shout cries  
Of thanksgiving and praise.**

God you call us to live knowing you...  
...We share our dreams and visions...  
**Trusting that you hear our prayers,**  
**Trusting that in love you hold them.**

God, you meet us where we are...  
...We are never alone.  
**We thank you for all those voices**  
**That have shared your love and promise**  
**Over the centuries:**  
**Prophets and disciples,**  
**Men and women, elders and youth,**  
**Filled with your Spirit,**  
**All those who remind us of who**  
**You would have us be**  
**In this world you created.**

Joining our voices with the myriad of voices  
All over the world,  
We cry:  
**Blessed is the One who comes**  
**In the name of the Lord!**  
**Hosanna in the Highest!**

As followers of Jesus...  
...We remember his story:  
**Born of Mary, raised in a small town,**  
**Trained as a carpenter,**  
**He came to share your vision for the world.**  
He modelled your compassion, lived with love,  
And by doing so enraged those in power.  
**Knowing what was to come,**  
**He promised that we would not be left alone,**



We would be sustained by the Spirit, always.  
Then he was arrested, tried, convicted and crucified.

**But the story was not over.**

On the third day, Jesus rose

**And he returned bringing hope and life**

**To his fear filled followers,**

**And to us.**

We remember on the night before he died...

Holy Spirit, you blow throughout creation,  
Into the places where we are.

**You meet us in our homes,**

**Filling us with hope,**

**Transforming our hearts.**

As we pause to eat and drink,

**Make us, while separate,**

**Unified in heart and hope.**

In this bread and this cup,  
may we meet the Risen One.

**In this meal of faith,**

**May we feel the connection we share**

**With each other and the world.**

And once we have eaten,

May be we unified in the common quest

To share the dreams you have given us.

**Willing to offer what we have**

**So that those dreams and visions**

**Take shape in our world.**

We pray in the name of the Risen Christ

Who lives hope and peace into our fear

And who encouraged us to sing together (VU#959)

**The Lord's Prayer**

## *Breaking and Pouring*

### **Prayer after Communion**

We have broken the bread,  
We have sipped the juice,  
We have shared a meal together.

**Even while we remain physically separated,  
We have been united in our souls.**

May this meal we share with each other  
And with the whole Christian family  
Across the centuries and across the world  
Change us.

**May it feed the fire in our bellies.**

**May it strengthen us when the storms blow through.**

Let this meal feed us body and soul,  
Connecting us one to another,  
One to the world,  
Knowing that distance will not  
Break the community of faith nurtured here.  
Amen.

**Hymn: MV#154 Deep in Our Hearts**    ^\*\*

1. *Deep in our hearts  
there is a common vision;  
Deep in our hearts  
there is a common song;  
Deep in our hearts  
there is a common story;  
Telling creation that we are one.*

2. *Deep in our hearts  
there is a common purpose,  
Deep in our hearts  
there is a common goal,  
Deep in our hearts  
there is a common message,  
Justice and peace in harmony.*
  
3. *Deep in our hearts  
there is a common longing;  
Deep in our hearts  
there is a common theme;  
Deep in our hearts  
there is a common current;  
Flowing to freedom like a stream.*
  
4. *Deep in our hearts  
There is a common vision;  
Deep in our hearts  
There is a common song;  
Deep in our hearts  
There is a common story;  
Telling creation that we are one.*

## **Commissioning and Benediction**

### **Postlude**



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