



Sunset United Church

September 12, 2021 - 16th after Pentecost

Minister: Rev. Tricia Gerhard (she/her)

Children & Youth Minister:

Michelle McConkey (she/her)

Choir Director: Corinne Groff (she/her)

Pianist: Shirley Hill (she/her)



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

WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Gathering Hymn: MV#130 Rise Up, Rise Up¹ (2x)

Rise up, rise up, rise up, O my soul.

Rise up and sing this blessing to God's name.

Lighting the Christ and Affirming Candles

Call to Worship*

Opening Prayer[^]

God of many names,
Of many images,
In these uncertain times,

We hold fast to your unwavering love.
Draw us close to one another
And to your love,
Which is strong and true.
Open our hearts to the wonder of your presence,
Which encourages us to be tender,
Courageous and justice seeking.
We pray as your faith-filled people,
As we worship, and as we live.
Amen.

Hymn: VU#625 I Feel the Winds of God²

I feel the winds of God today;
today my sail I lift,
though heavy oft with drenching spray
and torn with many a rift;
if hope but light the water's crest,
and Christ my bark will use
I'll seek the seas at his behest,
and brave another cruise.

It is the wind of God that dries
my vain regretful tears,
until with braver thoughts shall rise
the purer, brighter years;
if cast on shores of selfish ease
or pleasure I should be,
O let me feel your freshening breeze,
and I'll put back to sea.

If ever I forget your love

and how that love was shown,
lift high the blood red flag above;
it bears your name alone.
Great pilot of my onward way,
you will not let me drift.
I feel the winds of God today;
today my sail I lift.

Prayer Seeking Reconciliation

God,
Sometimes we seek to define you
With certain images,
With certain words.
We try to fit your presence and spirit
Into a well-defined, agreed on box
So that each of us can know and understand you.
Forgive us.
Forgive us when we seek the easy answer,
Instead of opening ourselves up
To the variety of ways you are present to us.
Help us to see you in the river
That runs through the prairie lands.
Help us to hear you in the small voice
Of a young child.
Help us to feel you in breeze that stirs the trees
Or in the hug of a dear friend.
Help us to know you
In ways that move beyond definition
And boxes
And categories.
Help us to remember

that you are more than answers,
You are more than set images.
You are all things, unique to each of us.
Help us to remember that,
And forgive us when we forget.

-silent prayer & reflection

Assurance Response: MV#97 Listen, God is Calling³

Listen, God is calling,
through the Word inviting,
Offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.

Sharing the Story

Hymn: MV#183 I'm Gonna Shout, Shout⁴

I'm gonna shout, shout, shout out my love for Jesus, for
Jesus!

I'm gonna shout, shout, shout out my love for God's most
holy child!

For whatever I might do today,
at home, at school, at work, at play,
I've got Jesus' love
deep down inside of me!

WE LISTEN

Scripture: Mark 8: 27-38

Special Music

Reflection

Hymn: VU#183 We Meet You, O Christ⁵

We meet you, O Christ, in many a guise;
your image we see in simple and wise.
You live in a palace, exist in a shack.
We see you, the gardener, a tree on your back.

In millions alive, away and abroad;
involved in our life you live down the road.
Imprisoned in systems you long to be free.
We see you, O Jesus, still bearing your tree.

We hear you, O Christ, in agony cry.
For freedom you march, in riots you die.
Your face in the papers we read and we see.
The tree must be planted by human decree.

You choose to be made at one with the earth;
the dark of the grave prepared for your birth.
Your death is your rising, creative your word;
the tree springs to life and our hope is restored.

Offering Blessing**:

Holy One, we delight in giving back
And paying forward through our gifts
And donations given to this ministry.
Bless these gifts abundantly
For the benefit of whomever they serve,
Wherever they serve. Amen.

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: VU#642 Be Thou My Vision⁶

Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight;
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Benediction

Amen

Postlude



¹ Words and music: Linnea Good, 2003. Words and music copyright © 2004 Borealis Music. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License 605683

* Prayer written by Selina Mullin, St. John's United, Marathon United, Ontario. Found in *Gathering: Pentecost 2 2021 (Year B)*, page 30. Used with permission.

^ Prayer written by Laura Turnbull, Penticton, BC. Found in *Gathering: Pentecost 2 2021 (Year B)*, page 33. Used with permission.

² Words: Jessie Adams 1907, alt.; Music: English and Irish Traditional Melody; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams 1906. Words copyright 1933 National Adult School Organization. Reprinted under One License 605683

³ Words and music: traditional song, Tanzania: trans. Howard S. Olson. Arrangement: *More Voices*, 2007. Translation copyright © Makumira University College (formerly Lutheran Theological College Makumira), PO Box 55, Usa River, Tanzania. Arrangement copyright © 2007 The United Church of Canada. Reprinted under One License 605683

⁴ Words and music: Bruce Harding, 1998; Words and music copyright © 1998 by Bruce Harding. www.evensong.ca. Reprinted under One License 605683

⁵ Words: Fred Kaan 1966; Music: Peter D. Smith 1969; arr. Peter R. Walker 1993; Words copyright © 1968 and music copyright © 1969 Hope Publishing Company. Arrangement copyright © 1993 Peter R. Walker. Reprinted under One License 605683

** Prayer written by Jani Francis, St. Andrew's UC, Indian Head, Sk. Found in *Gathering: Pentecost 2 2021 (Year B)*, page 36. Used with permission.

⁶ Words: Irish ca. 8th century, trans. Mary Elizabeth Byrne 1905; vers. Eleanor H. Hull 1912, alt. Music: Irish traditional melody. Reprinted under One License 605683

