

Sunset United Church

September 19, 2021 - Return to In-person Worship



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

Re-entering the Sanctuary

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

Calling all people of the Living God:

The gospel is good news for every age
and every stage.

Let us worship together,

The young and the old.

The good news is proclaimed in God's words,
And also with crayons, laptops, work and rest time.

Let us worship together,

Every generation

After months of learning, working and worshipping behind
screens or separated by six feet or more,

Let us worship together,

With our family of faith.

We may feel uncertain, seeing so many faces again
But we come together seeking God's peace
In this beautiful community.

Let us worship together,

United in Christ,

Both in person and remotely.

Amen.

Opening Prayer

Hymn: MV#30 It's a Song of Praise to the Maker²

**It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the thrush sings high in the tree.**

**It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the gray whale sings in the sea.**

Refrain

**And by the Spirit you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.**

**It's a call of life to the Giver
when waves and waterfalls roar.**

It's a call of life to the Giver
when high tides break on the shore.

Refrain

It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
the bumblebees hum along.
It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
the summer breeze joins the song,

Refrain

It's a chorus of all creation;
it's sung by all living things.
It's a chorus of all creation;
a song the universe sings,

Refrain

Blessing Tags

Hymn: VU#249 Rejoice in the Lord Always³

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: Psalm 133
Ezra 3:10-13

Special Music

Reflection

Hymn: VU#278 In the Quiet Curve of Evening⁴

In the quiet curve of evening, in the sinking of the days,
in the silky void of darkness, you are there.

In the lapses of my breathing, in the space between my ways,
in the crater carved by sadness, you are there.

You are there (3x)

In the rests between the phrases, in the cracks between the stars,
in the gaps between the meaning, you are there.

In the melting down of endings, in the cooling of the sun,
in the solstice of the winter, you are there.

You are there (3x)

In the mystery of my hungers, in the silence of my rooms,
in the cloud of my unknowing, you are there.

In the empty cave of grieving, in the desert of my dreams,
in the tunnel of my sorrow, you are there.

You are there (3x)

Offertory: MV#191 What Can I Do?⁵

What can I do? What can I bring?

What can I say? What can I sing?

I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.

I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

Offering Blessing:

Gracious God, we know that our gifts make a difference to
each other and to others in your world. We give to support

the ministry of this congregation. We give to support your ministry of love in the world. We give that others might live with hope. Receive and bless our gifts, and with them, the offerings of our hearts. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayers of the People:

Steady and comforting God...
...And deepening resilience.

Loving God, hold us and our prayers.

We pray for our minds...
...loops in peaceful places.

Loving God, hold us and our prayers.

We pray for our hands...
...and move through life.

Loving God, hold us and our prayers.

We pray for our mouths...
...Wherever our feet go or stay.

Loving God, hold us and our prayers.

We pray for our eyes...
...of the Spirit within us.

Loving God, hold us and our prayers.

We pray for our ears...
...the Spirit within us.

Loving God, hold us and our prayers.

We say a special prayer...
...Regardless of where we find ourselves.

Loving God, hold us and our prayers.

In particular, as the school year begins...
...That students can also be teachers.

Loving God, hold us and our prayers.

We pray for health and wholeness...
... using the words Jesus taught:

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: VU#578 As a Fire Is Meant for Burning⁶

As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame,
so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nations, finding neighbours everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.

We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.

By our gentle, loving actions, we should show that Christ is light.

In a humble, listening Spirit, we would live to God's delight.

As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness mid earth's people's many hues.

As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.

Benediction

Amen

Postlude



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