Sunset United Church

September 27, 2020 – Proper 21

Minister: Rev. Tricia Gerhard

Children & Youth Minister: Michelle McConkey

Choir Director: Corinne Groff

Pianist: Shirley Hill Reader: Karen Cartmell

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 And Christ's presence here.

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:

Opening Prayer
Gracious One, in joy and in sorrow,
We gather.
We come to you today with our hearts open,
Our nerves frayed...
We come to be healed and to be inspired.
We come to be moved by song and held in prayer.
We come to be with our community,
Nurtured by our connection with others in faith.
We come for the illumination of ancient wisdom
And for the revelation of present insight.
No matter what, we worship...
Amen.

Hymn: MV#3 River

 River, rush-a-down to the ocean blue, River from a mountain high. River, as you do what rivers do, River, draw the Spirit nigh.

- Spirit, come-a-down to the riverside,
 Spirit, spark of wondrous thought.
 Spirit, I am free for you to guide,
 Spirit I pray that I be taught!
- Water, let me drink of your healing pow'r,
 Water, strength and life you give.
 Water, as I travel with each hour,
 Water, help my body live.
- River, flow-a-down where you ran before, River, source of clearer view.
 River, as I walk your rocky shore, River, see my journey through.

Prayer Seeking reconciliation

God of Living Water, you call us to come and drink.

So why do we sit here and complain that there is not enough water?

You call us to strike the rocks of our world and let your Living Water flow.

But we do not trust enough that the spring is there. We want to find the water on our own, using our own wisdom.

You call us to share the Water of Life with the world around us

But we believe that the water is limited, Not abundant and so we are tempted to save it for ourselves.

For all the times we turn away from your Water, For all the times we sully the Water by misusing it, For all the times we let others go thirsty instead of offering a drink.

Forgive us we pray.

(time of silence to offer personal prayers)

Affirmation of Forgiveness

The Water of life flows with abundance to fill us with hope, to cleanse us of our guilt, to float us to a new life. Drink deep of the living Water, and know that you are loved and cherished. Thanks and praise to God. Amen.

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#575 I'm Gonna Live So

- I'm gonna live so God can use me, Anywhere, Lord, anytime.
 I'm gonna live so God can use me, Anywhere, Lord, anytime.
- I'm gonna work so God can use me, Anywhere, Lord, anytime.
 I'm work live soGod can use me, Anywhere, Lord, anytime.

- I'm gonna pray so God can use me, Anywhere, Lord, anytime.
 I'm gonna pray so God can use me, Anywhere, Lord, anytime.
- I'm gonna sing so God can use me, Anywhere, Lord, anytime.
 I'm gonna sing so God can use me, Anywhere, Lord, anytime.

WE LISTEN

Scripture: Exodus 17:1-17

Reflection:

Special Music

Dedication of gifts given during this time of COVID-19:

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer (sung VU#959)

Hymn: VU#690 From the Slave Pens of the Delta *^

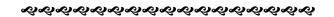
1. "From the slave pens of the delta, From the ghettos on the Nile, Let my people seek their freedom In the wilderness a while":
So God spoke from out of Sinai, So God spoke and it was done, And a people crossed the waters Toward the rising of the sun.

- 2. "From the aging shrines and structures, From the cloister and the aisle, Let my people seek their freedom, In the wilderness a while":

 So the Son of God has spoken, And the storm clouds are unfurled For his people must be scattered To be servants in the world.
- 3. When we murmur on the mountains
 For the old Egyptians plains,
 When we miss our ancient bondage
 And the hope, the promise, wanes,
 The rock shall yield its water
 And the manna fall by night,
 And with visions of a future,
 Shall we march toward the light.
- 4. In the maelstrom of the nations,
 In the journey into space
 In the clash of generations,
 In the hungering for grace,
 In our agony and glory,
 We are called to newer ways
 By the God of our tomorrows
 Who is God of earth's todays.

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude



- *Words and music: Linnea Good, 2003. Words and music copyright 2004 by Borealis Music. www.linneagood.com Used by permission. One License 605683
- ** Words & music: Julian Pattison, 2003. Words and music copyright 2003 Julian Pattison. All rights reserved. www.eaglewingmusic.org . Used by permission. One License 605683
- *** Words and music: traditional song, Cameroon: arr. More Voices 2007. Arrangement copyright 2007 the United Church of Canada. All rights reserved. One License 605683
- **** Word: African-American Spiritual. Music: African-American Spiritual, arr: Wendell Whalum. Arrangement copyright 1997 Estate of Wendell Whalum. One License 605683
- *^ Words: Herbert O'Driscoll, 1971, alt.. Music: Trier Gesangbuch, 1695, adapt; Luxemberg Kyriale 1768 Words copyright 1971 the Methodist Publishing House. One License 605683