



# Sunset United Church

An Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada (2007)



[www.sunsetunited.ca](http://www.sunsetunited.ca)

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Choir Leader: Nancy Edwards

Pianists: Shirley Hill/Kevin Petrychyn



Ministry staff: Rev. Tricia Gerhard & Michelle McConkey

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We recognize that we meet on Treaty 4 Territory, the lands of the Cree, Ojibwa, Saukteaux, Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, and the Metis homeland. May we live with respect on this land and with its peoples.

## WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Gathering Hymn: MV#14 Where Two or Three Are  
Gathered \*\*\*

Lighting the Peace and Christ Candles



Opening Words:

*I thank You God for most this amazing  
Day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees  
And a blue true dream of sky; and for everything  
Which is natural which is infinite which is yes.*

*(I who have died am alive again today,  
And this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth  
Day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay  
Great happening illimitably earth)*

*How should tasting touching hearing seeing  
Breathing any – lifted from the no  
Of all nothing – human merely being  
Doubt unimaginable You?*

*(now the ears of my ears awake and  
Now the eyes of my eyes are opened)  
-e.e cummings*

### **Opening Prayer\***

Ever present God, you have been with us.  
In the warmth and relaxation of Summer,  
**You have been with us, O God.**

In the journeys to visit family  
and the times we have been with friends,  
**You have been with us, O God.**

At those times when we cooked outside,  
Those times at the lake,  
those times when we enjoyed a walk,  
**You have been with us, O God.**

Ever present, God, you are with us.  
As a fresh time of worship begins,  
As we welcome newcomers,  
**You are with us, O God.**

As we plan for the months ahead,  
As we dream dreams of a renewed faith community  
And work to bring the dreams to reality,  
**You are with us, O God.**

You will be with us, O God.  
There will be challenges and hard times,  
    **There will be times of celebration,**  
    **There will be questioning and doubting,**  
    **There will be joy in our worship,**  
But you will never leave us,  
    **Ever present and everywhere present, God.**  
    **Amen.**

**Hymn: MV#4 All Who are Thirsty \*\*\*\***

**Prayer seeking Reconciliation\*\***

God of Revelation and call,  
As we walk to school, or wait for the bus  
As we drive to work, or sit at home until a ride arrives,  
    **We ponder what you would have us do,**  
    **And we confess that, too often, we come up short.**  
You call us to live in joy,  
    **But we are given to anxiety and misgivings.**  
You call us to reach out in love and concern,  
    **But we are more than likely to ignore**  
    **The cries of those around and beyond us.**  
You call us to follow Jesus,  
    **But we convince ourselves we are unworthy or**  
    **unqualified.**  
Forgive us for being unloving, ignorant and blind,  
    - *Time of silent reflection* -  
Refresh us, restore us, renew us, we pray. Amen

**Words of Grace**

**Sung Response: MV#90 Don't Be Afraid \*\*\*\*\***

Passing the peace



## WE LISTEN

Sharing the Story

Hymn: Rise and Shine (words on screen) <<

Scripture: Mark 7: 24-37

Reflection

Hymn: VU#626 I Heard the Voice of Jesus \*+

## WE RESPOND

Offering Dedication

Hymn: VU#540 Grant Us, God, the Grace \*<<<<\*

Prayer

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

Hymn: VU#578 As a Fire is Meant for Burning <<\*\*

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude



\* prayer written by David Sparks. Gathering, Pentecost 2015, page 23.

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