

**September 20, 2020**

**Worship in Sanctuary & On-Line**

**Musical Prelude** ~ Evelyn Shursen, pianist

**Words of Welcome & Announcements** ~ Jan Richardson

**Candle Lighting & Centering Prayer** (*for the autumn equinox*)

*We're invited to take a deep breath and make space for the Spirit, as we welcome the light.*

Light of Our Heart, who clears shadows away, we gather together in this between time - the time between one season and the next, the time between reflection and action, the time when there is breath-space to pause and rest in your presence where pure love is found.

In this sacred place, we gather to receive your message of love and transformation.

We are grateful for this time to be opened, filled, and strengthened by you.

Bless us, Light of the World, as we dip our cups into your well of living water. Amen.

Written by Sheryl McLeod. Reprinted, with permission, from page 27 of *gathering Pentecost 2 2020*.

**Hymn ~ A Light is Gleaming #82 VU** (*choruses and verses 3 & 4*)

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**Poem-Prayer ~ We See the Light**

In violent times,

beautiful words,

centuries old,

resonant with truth:

**'Because of your light, Lord,**

**we see the light.'**

That light, even now,

illuminating

our terror-stricken age

with the possibility of change:

**offering our over-burdened hearts**

**a resting place**

**that a deeper compassion**

**may be our companion -**

**an energy of love**

**to struggle for justice,**

**to be a wounded healer,**

**to share what we have,**

**to carry hope in our hearts,**

**to laugh and to love,**

**perhaps, all in one day!**

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**Congregational Theme/Story Time**

**Prayer for Illumination:**

**O God, you have bound us together in this life. Give us grace to understand how our lives depend on the courage, industry, honesty, and integrity of all who labour. May we be mindful of the needs of workers, grateful for their faithfulness, and honest in our responsibilities to others. Amen.**

Written by Reinhold Niebuhr and reprinted, with permission, from page 534 of *Celebrate God's Presence*.

**Opening to the Word ~ Matthew 20:1-16**

Jesus responds to a time of tension with a parable about God's care and generosity.

*This parable can offend what we have come to know as ideas of fairness. What experiences does it bring up for you? How may those experiences uncover new ways of understanding trust in God's abundance?*

Video Version: Biblical Storytelling by Linnea Good, recorded in a vineyard in Summerland, BC <https://youtu.be/65htEubkz9k>

## Minister's Message/Reflection

### Hymn: *When We Are Living* #581 VU

Words (v. 1): Spanish anonymous, Words (v 2, 3 and 4): Roberto Escamilla 1983. English Translation George Lockwood © 1987. Harmony: Carlton R. Young ©1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. Music: Spanish melody. Words, Music: Public Domain. English Translation, Harmony: The United Methodist Publishing House OneLicence.net Annual Renewal A-605521

### Prayers of the Community ~ *Labourers in the Vineyard*

Gracious God,  
of the prodigal and his brother,  
of pious Mary and productive Martha,  
of all-day labourers and the Johnny-come-latelies,  
we confess we often carry resentment and bitterness,  
that we are disappointed in, or jealous of, others,  
that we are frequently envious, and even, angry.

Generous God,  
who confuses first and last,  
who turns expectations upside down,  
who offers us unsettling parabolic logic,  
we confess we often think we deserve more,  
that we have earned rewards,  
that we merit recognition.

Merciful God,  
who measures things by divine standards,  
whose accounting defies human expectations,  
Ted Dodd <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2349874623/permalink/10157844571354624/>

who holds creation in encompassing and expansive arms,  
we confess we grumble,  
we complain,  
we hold grudges.

God who loves us profoundly and deeply,  
who creates each of us in your image,  
whose grace and generosity is beyond our wildest dreams,  
in a world of vast inequities, unfair divisions,  
and hurtful history,  
you envision winner and loser on an even playing field;  
you imagine outsiders and insiders both within the circle;  
you picture relationships where inferior and superior are not ranked.

Help us to live out your way in the world,  
with the joy of inclusion,  
the gratitude of your gifts,  
and the blessing of your love.

**& The Prayer Jesus Taught** sung version, Lea Nicoll Kramer, a capella soloist, recorded at Garneau United Church, September 13, 2020

### **Benediction** (*based on Philippians 1: 21-30*)

Let us continue in our work.

**Let us live in manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.**

Let us be in one spirit, striving side by side,

**Let us find Christ in our struggles,**

Let us be surprised by the joy in our faith,  
**Let us find you, O God, in all our work. Amen.**

— Elsa A. Peters.

<https://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/pdfs/2011/Come-all-Laborers-Pentecost-14-September-18.rtf>

## **Recessional: You Shall Go Out with Joy #884 VU**

You shall go out with joy  
and be led forth with peace;  
the mountains and the hills  
will break forth before you;  
there'll be shouts of joy,  
and all the trees of the field  
will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field  
will clap their hands,  
the trees of the fields will clap their hands,  
the trees of the field will clap their hands,  
while you go out with joy.

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**Video link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMkWGtKbMFU&ab\\_channel=GoldenEarsUnitedChurch](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMkWGtKbMFU&ab_channel=GoldenEarsUnitedChurch)**