



August 30, 2020

On-the-Lawn & Video Worship

Words of Welcome & Announcements ~ Jan Richardson

Candle Lighting & Centering...

"Before I can tell my life what I want to do with it, I must listen to my life telling me who I am."
Parker J. Palmer, 21st century

Gathering Prayer:

Believing our lives are touched by you, O God... that you want something for us, and of us, we pray: give us ears to hear you, eyes to see the tracing of your fingers, and hearts quickened by the motions of your Spirit. Amen.

by Ted Loder, from *Guerrillas of Grace: Prayers for the Battle*, copyright 1984 LauraMedia

Hymn: *Teach Me God to Wonder* #299 VU

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Teach me, God, to wonder,
teach me, God, to see.
Let your world of beauty
capture me.

Refrain:

*Praise to you be given.
Love for you be lived.
Life be celebrated, joy you
give!*

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Let me, God, be open,
let me loving be.
Let your world of people
speak to me.

Refrain:

Let me, God, be ready,
let me be awake.
In your world of loving,
my place take.

Refrain:

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Teach me, God, to know you,
hear you when you speak,
see you in my neighbour
when we meet.

Refrain:

Video version as recorded Graceland
University in Lamoni, Iowa.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xXVRJL0d0IA&feature=youtu.be>

Intro to Bible Reading with a Joke: ~ *George W. Bush Meets Moses*

George W. Bush was walking through an airport, when he saw an old man with white hair, a long white beard, wearing a long robe and holding a staff. He walked up to the man, who was staring at the ceiling, and "Excuse me sir, aren't you Moses?"



The man stood perfectly still and continued to stare at the ceiling, saying nothing. Again, George W. asked, a little louder this time, "Excuse me sir, aren't you Moses?" Again, the old man stared at the ceiling motionless without saying a word. George W. tried a third time, louder yet. "Excuse me sir, aren't you Moses?" Again, no movement or words from the old man. He just continued to stare at the ceiling.

One of George W's aides then asked him if there was a problem, and George W. said, "Either this man is deaf or extremely rude. I have asked him three times if he was Moses, and he has not answered me yet." To which the old man -- still staring at the ceiling -- finally replied to the aide, "I can hear him, and yes, I am Moses, but the last time I spoke to a bush, I spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness."

A Reading from Exodus 3:1-15

Moses is dutifully tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, priest of Midian, when out of the blue a burning bush catches his eye. It is ablaze but is not consumed. What does it mean?

(Option: script and audio recording by biblical storyteller, Gavin Owen, copyright 2005

<https://www.biblestoryteller.co.uk/Moses2.asp>)

Responsive Reading:

The Moses in my heart trembles

not quite willing

to accept the prophet hidden in my being

wondering how much it will cost

to allow that prophet to emerge.

O child of unnecessary shoes

cast them off

and stand in readiness

on this holy ground.

For the Egypt in people's lives

demand that you see the burning bushes

all around you

aflame

burning wildly

calling you

away from the comfort

of well-protected feet.

The ground you stand on is holy.

Take off your shoes!

The ground of your being is holy.

Take off your shoes!

Awaken your sleeping prophet

believe in your Moses; and go....

Reprinted from page 4 of *Seasons of Your Heart*. Copyright 1991 by Macrina Wiederkehr.

Minister's Message

Hymn: *I Have Called You By Your Name #161 MV*

(as recorded by Strathroy United Church, Andy Cloutier, organ
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PNDphUiEPYU>)

**I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you;
all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.**

**I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name,
speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body, given long ago.**

**I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out,
choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.**

**I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul,
make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.**

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A Reading from Romans 12: 9-18

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with the affection of a sibling; outdo one another in showing honour.

Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve God.

Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; never be conceited. Repay no one evil for evil; but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all.

Prayer inspired by Scripture...

written & shared by Ted Dodd, retired diaconal minister, Winnipeg, MB

https://www.facebook.com/groups/2349874623/?post_id=10157797772109624

Holy One, the values you would have us live are not mere niceness, not wishful-thinking platitudes, not unattainable pipe dreams.

You call us to lives of profound and energetic love. You guide us to ministries of compassionate and generous hospitality. You direct us to

discipleship that is caring and costly. Help us commit to your kin-dom values and vision.

Bless our being and acting in the church with your grace and kindness. Sanctify our attitudes and behaviour in the world with your mercy and mission.

Let us breathe in the Holy Spirit, devoting our purposes to the common good, that we might be afire with faith and service.

Let us hold one another with mutual affection and regard, seeing one another with honour and nobility, that we might build community and connection.

Let us value others with respect and worth, sharing celebration with the joyful and glad, being in solidarity with the suffering and afflicted.

Grant us authentic patience and humility.

Let our love be genuine.



Minute for Mission ~ *Rendez-vous 2020*

Youth and Young Adults Meet Digitally August 11-14

Published on: August 24, 2020 <https://www.united-church.ca/stories/youth-and-young-adults-rendez-vous-digitally>

Commissioning & Benediction

God asks, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?"

May our reply be,

"Here am I; send me."

So we are sent with the Word into the World

With God's power, love and peace.

Closing Hymn: *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky #509 VU* Words, Music, Harmony: © 1981

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