



Video Worship
July 26, 2020

Words of Welcome & Announcements

Candle Lighting & Time to Focus:

"I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world." (Matthew 13:35)

Gathering Prayer:

Holy One, ever creating God,
small things count in your Kingdom.

Granules of yeast leaven bread,
a tiny mustard seed becomes a great tree
a humble meal of two fish and five loaves provides a feast for a multitude,
and there are leftovers.

We hold within us
small seeds of hope,
the promise of joy,
and the possibility of great love
Within your grace we are a people of abundance.

Holy One, send your Spirit, into our lives
that hope may blossom,
joy spill over,
and love hold all people of this earth.

Holy One, grant us your presence.

Amen.

http://www.united-church.ca/files/planning/theme/ms_worship.pdf

Opening Hymn: *God, We Praise You for the Morning* #415 VU

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<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1v-XCabF4Xx7SfJ8qomi0DboEgLCnpaxu>

A Reading from Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

This text gives us five ways to imagine the Kingdom of Heaven (more specifically: God's will being done on earth as it is in heaven).

³¹Jesus put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in their field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air

come and make nests in its branches.”³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Hymn: *I See a New Heaven #713 VU (verses 1 & 3 with choruses)*

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Minister’s Message ~ Jan Richardson

Prayer Sequence ~ sung by David Goodwin, accompanied by Barbara-Lynn Goodwin

We’re lead in prayer today with hymn texts/words from our Voices United hymnbook...

(Let’s find our prayer posture...)

“Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying, Send us love, send us power, send us grace!”

(We recognize the providence of God...)

“When long before time and the wolds were begun,
when there was no earth & no sky & no sun,
and all was deep silence & night reigned supreme,
and even our Maker had only a dream...
the silence was broken when God sang the Song,
& light pierced the darkness & rhythm began,
and with its first birth-cries creation was born,
and creaturely voices sang praise to the morn.”

(We offer prayers for the care of the earth)

“Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently, nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender, trust for the children tomorrow will bear.
God of all living, God of all loving, God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us, using us gently and making us one.”

(We pray as we travel through life together)

“We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through."

(Prayers for a weary world)

"Let there be light, let there be understanding,
let all the nations gather, let them be face to face;
perish the sword, perish the angry judgement,
perish the bombs & hunger, perish the fight for gain.
let there be light, open our hearts to wonder,
perish the way of terror, hallow the world God made."

(Our part in it answering prayer...)

"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, pray and sing so God can use me anywhere, anytime."
"To you, God the Singer, our voices we raise, to you, Song Incarnate, we give all our praise,
to you, Holy Spirit, our life and our breath,
be glory for ever, through life and through death."

The Prayer Jesus Taught *(sung version Voices United # 959)*

Benediction:

With a song of praise on our lips,
we go forth with God.

With the love of God in our hearts,
we go forth with God.

With a commitment to usher in God's kingdom,
we go forth with God.

With all that we are and all we can be,
we go forth with God.

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