

FIRST UNITED CHURCH, WATERLOO  
Worship on July 4, 2021  
*Building Relationships. Living God's Transforming Love*

**WE ARE GATHERED BY LOVE**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Greg Case**

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Greg Case**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle 1 John 1:7a**

**Rev. Rose Ann Vita**

*If we live in God's light  
we will become one with each other  
and we will be able to love and forgive.  
By the grace of God, may it be so. Amen*

**Opening Words**

**Rev. Rose Ann Vita**

*God, we come with praise and gratitude.  
Thank you for your word, for speaking to us anew today.  
In faith and trust, we open our ears and minds to you.  
Bless us as we worship together this day.*

**Confession**

*We know you are with us in the rush of life.  
You see us as we truly are,  
with our secrets and shames,  
with our dreams and hopes.*

*We crave your blessing and direction as  
we confess that we ourselves have walked in dark places.  
And we sadly acknowledge that those who have settled in Canada  
have committed horrors toward Indigenous peoples through Residential Schools,  
and that we have inherited both the benefits and the shame of their actions.*

*We ask for healing. We ask for the ability to repent.  
We ask for strength to face the truth of our own prejudices,  
and we ask for grace to become loving, compassionate people.*

*Bless us with your insights for the future.*

*Bless us, with perseverance to find new ways  
to mend broken relationships,  
Give us the wisdom of your Holy Spirit.*

*May this time of worship renew and strengthen us  
to live out the blessing we receive from you.  
Amen.*

### **Silent Reflection: God Weeps MV 78**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XSInO-5KG8&ab\\_channel=GoldenEarsUnitedChurch](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XSInO-5KG8&ab_channel=GoldenEarsUnitedChurch)

### **Introduction to Opening Song: Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness**

**Rev. Rose Ann Vita**

*As it has been recorded in the fourteenth chapter of John:*

*"But the Advocate the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."*

*Let us sing Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness ~ Voices United 365*

### **Opening Song: Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness VU 365**

*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free,  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.*

*1. You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,  
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;  
and over the eons you called to each thing:  
--- wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings."*

*2. You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,  
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;  
and when they were blinded with idols and lies,  
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.*

*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free,  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.*

*3. You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,  
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;  
and down in the city you called once again,  
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.*

*4. You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,  
from the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams,  
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.  
with bold new decisions your people arise.*

*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free,  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.*

### **WE LISTEN WITH LOVE**

#### **Scripture: Mark 6:7-13**

**Rev. Rose Ann Vita**

Jesus called the twelve of his followers and sent them out in pairs. He gave them authority and power to deal with evil opposition. Jesus sent them off with these instructions: "Don't think you need a lot of extra equipment for this. *You* are the equipment. No special appeals for funds. Keep it simple: No luxury inns. Get a modest place and be content there until you leave. And if you're not welcomed, if no one listens to you, then quietly withdraw. Don't make a scene. Shrug your shoulders and be on your way." Then they were on the road. They preached with joyful urgency that life can be radically different; they sent the demons away; they brought wellness to the sick, anointing their bodies, and healing their spirits.

#### **Introduction to Posada**

**Rev. Rose Ann Vita**

#### **Posada**

**Lee Willingham & Eva Mezo**

#### **Sermon      Hospitality: When God Comes Knocking**

**Rev. Rose Ann Vita**

#### **Video: A Better Tent City**

<https://vimeo.com/486941338/b087a1c51a>

#### **Update: A Better Tent City**

**Lee Willingham**

#### **Hymn: God, You Move Across the Borders**

**Kathleen King Martin**

*1. God, you move across the borders with the ones who need to flee.  
You walk with the weary traveler; you go with the refugee.*

*You cry out from mass detention; you seek justice, here denied.  
You enfold with great compassion those the nations push aside.*

*2. God, you move among the suffering in this time of illness here.  
You work through the people offering care amid the pain and fear.  
In our grief and isolation, in the times it's hard to cope,  
You bring peace and consolation; you bring joy and love and hope.*

*3. God, you break down mighty barriers — sins we've sanctioned far too long.  
We have walked on paths of privilege; you have moved to right the wrong.  
You have sent your prophets to us, calling racist ways a sin.  
You have judged us and renewed us; you have shown that love will win.*

*4. God, you move across the barriers, offering love in Jesus Christ.  
Through your Son, our Lord and Savior, you have called: "Now share my life!"  
By your Spirit, give us courage; help us boldly move to be  
loving, justice-seeking neighbors building your community.*

#### **WE GIVE FROM LOVE**

**Response: Offering Our Financial Gifts**

**Nancy Lennox**

**Dedication of Gifts**

**Nancy Lennox**

#### **WE ARE SENT TO LOVE**

**Closing Words**

**Rev. Rose Ann Vita**

**Closing Song: O Canada**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L7\\_ZUBjuTi4&ab\\_channel=Revv52](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L7_ZUBjuTi4&ab_channel=Revv52)

**Prelude to O Canada**

"I love unfinished things, the bookmark set between closed pages, the field that waits for seed, Canada is a place like that, a history incomplete, a traveler turning around and wondering at the distance gone, the distance yet to go. What was there, Canada? What is ever there on a country's road, but times when we were glorious, and times of things no one should have done? Our anthem understands: words of pride with notes of mourning, and the music of resolve to finish and turn towards the road ahead. Here is a place to say, We go on, not as before, and so keep faith with the best of what we are. O, Canada, it is a complex love that keeps us together, and all the more true love for that."