**July 18**

Pre Service Slides

10:30 AM

Screen

**Prelude (Colin Bonneau)**

Pulpit

News and announcements

Center

**Candles** are lit while one of you reads:

The light is all around us—a sign of the season for us as northern people.

(*Light the Christ candle.*)

The flame of this Christ candle reminds us of the beauty and presence of the light that paints the sky, bathes the land, and brightens our path. Thanks be to Creator for fire and sun, for flame and symbol, for the light of Christ.

Screen**+**

**Call to Worship**

*based on Song of Solomon 2:8–13*

God is our beloved and we are God’s!

The Spirit leaps over mountains, bounds over hills.

God’s grace finds us where we are, grounded in faith or mired in fear of making a mistake.

The Divine One calls us: “Arise, my loves, my fair ones: as the leaves turn and fall for another year, yesterday is gone and cannot be made new.

Tomorrow is a spring not yet sprung. I am here today to lift you, carry you, and love you. Arise, my beloved ones, and come away with me into this fair day!

Be blessed and a blessing. Come into my presence to worship today.

Let us pray

When we enter into this place,

**it is prayer.**

When we are at home worshipping online,

**It is prayer.**

When we share our lives with one another,

**it is prayer.**

When we support one another,

**it is prayer.**

When we share our concerns, our gratitude, and our work,

**it is prayer.**

God we celebrate all you give us,

**as we pray together, love one another, and worship you together.**

**Amen**

**Opening Hymn: VU 595** *We Are Pilgrims* **verses** **1-2 and 5-6**

Center

**Connecting Time**

**Reading from Scripture:**

**EPHESIANS 4:  1-8, 11-13, 16** this week reading from the translation, New Revised Standard Version

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore it is said, “When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.”

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. …from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.

**First Letter of John 4: 17-21** from the paraphrase the Message

God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us, so that we’re free of worry on Judgment Day—our standing in the world is identical with Christ’s. There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love.

We, though, are going to love—love and be loved. First we were loved, now we love. He loved us first.

If anyone boasts, “I love God,” and goes right on hating his brother or sister, thinking nothing of it, he is a liar. If he won’t love the person he can see, how can he love the God he can’t see? The command we have from Christ is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. You’ve got to love both.

Screen**+**

We respond:

In ages past, disciples, prophets, priests and historians wrote down their faith.

**This is a faithful witness of our ancestors.**

Word of God for us today.

**Thanks be to God.**

Pulpit

**Sermon** *Love is not irritated or resentful*

Screen**+**

**Hymn: VU 598** *When Pain of the World (Called to follow Jesus)*

**Invitation to the Offering**

*Invitation*

As we have been loved, so may we love others.

As we have been fed, so may we feed others.

As we have received from God’s hand blessings beyond measure, may we also generously share with one another and with God’s world.

Let us present our offerings.

**DOXOLOGY AGCS #37,** *The Circle of Love*, (Chorus, verse one, Chorus)

Pulpit

**Prayer of the People**

Holy One,

life is complicated and challenging.

You call us to be our fullest and best selves,

and yet often we settle for less.

Time and again,

you invite us back to your heart.

Time and again,

you welcome us with open arms.

Gather us in today,

as we meet in Jesus’ name. Amen.

So often we have a fear of missing out—

whether missing out on social media happenings, local games or concerts,

or missing out on the latest brand products,

or missing out on the most modern updates to our homes.

Focusing on the siren calls of consumerism and status, we can easily miss out on your most powerful gift—love.

Work within us, creative God, showing us our place and our purpose in walking humbly with you.

(*a time of silent prayer*)

*Words of Assurance*

Here’s the good news.

We are worthy of love because God first loved us.

Because we are so completely loved,

we learn how to love.

We are worthy of love so we can love ourselves.

Knowing how to love,

we can risk loving others just as Jesus loved.

In this loving is our forgiveness.

In the power of love, we become ever more whole.

Thanks be to God!

**The Lord’s Prayer (new, tune VU 713)**

**Hymn: VU 326** *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* **verses 1-3**

**Commissioning**

And now may the blessing of a second chance,

the deepening awareness of God’s presence

within and all around,

the strength that comes through faith

and the abundance of God’s love shared with others

be with each of us.

**We leave this time and place of worship**

**to be a blessing in all the places life calls us to be.**

Go in love, for you are loved.

**Amen**.

**Blessing Song: MV 224** *May the God of Peace*

Post Service Slides

**Postlude (Colin Boneau)**

Today’s prayers were written (or inspired by) Peter Chynowet, Michele Rowe, Éric Hébert-Daly, Bob Root, Gord Dunbar, Karen MacNeill

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