

FIRST UNITED CHURCH, WATERLOO
Worship on August 1, 2021 ~ Household Economics
Building Relationships. Living God's Transforming Love

WE ARE GATHERED BY GOD'S LOVE

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements and Land Acknowledgement

Lighting of the Christ Candle

In the Gospel of John, Jesus spoke to the people and said

I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life.

May these words of the first century, be words for us today in the 21st Century

Introit: Come and Find the Quiet Centre ~ VU 374, vs 1 & 2

1. Come and find the quiet center

*in the crowded life we lead,
 find the room for hope to enter,
 find the frame where we are freed:
 clear the chaos and the clutter,
 clear our eyes, that we can see
 all the things that really matter,
 be at peace, and simply be.*

*2. Silence is a friend who claims us,
 cools the heat and slows the pace,
 God it is who speaks and names us,
 knows our being, touches base,
 making space within our thinking,
 lifting shades to show the sun,
 raising courage when we're shrinking,
 finding scope for faith begun.*

Opening Prayer

*God of Creation,
 who holds all things in wonderful balance,*

we come before you in joyful, noisy praise!

*May our voices join the songs of birds,
the grunts and snorts of animals, the roar of the sea,
the rush of the wind through the trees,
in proclaiming your faithful love of all that has being.*

*We pray that we may lift ourselves to the height of your just, sure grace,
that we may live, as well as sing, in harmony with all of your creation. Amen.*

Opening Hymn: Come to My Heart ~ VU 661

1. Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; come to my heart today.

Give me peace and joy that only you can bring.

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.

2. Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.

Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; fill me with love today.

Give me peace and joy that only you can bring.

Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.

3. Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.

Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; Answer my prayer today.

Give me peace and joy that only you can bring.

Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus, give me a song to sing.

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S LOVE

Scripture: Genesis 1:26-31 (Based on a paraphrase by Ralph Milton in the *Family Story Bible*)

Then God said, "Let there be people in the world, and let the people be made so they are like me."

So God created people. And God said to the people, "Let there be new babies born so there will always be new people in my world when the old people die"

Then God said to the people, "Take care of my world. It's yours to use. All of it. But please be kind to my world."

Then God looked at all the world, and all the beautiful things in it.

And God said, "That's very good"

Introduction to the Sermon

Sermon: Household Economics ~ Practicing Our Faith

Rose Ann Vita

Sermon Hymn: Three Things I Promise ~ MV 176

1. *Three things I promise, Holy God,
in age and youth, in life and death:
to bless your Name, and cling to Christ,
and listen for the Spirit's breath.*

2. *Your love unfolded time and space,
and life, and all that life became,
and so, with thankful heart and voice,
through good and ill, I bless your Name.*

3. *I follow, serve, and cling to Christ
amid our culture's tides and trends,
for here your Name is most revealed:
Majestic Love, and Best of Friends.*

4. *Enlivened as the Spirit moves
to cleanse, awaken, and renew,
I pray that justice, peace, and truth,
may seed and grow in all I do.*

5. *If I should live when vigor fades,
and family and friends are gone,
three acts of loving faith remain
when days are slow, and work is done.*

6. *Revive and guide me, Living God,
as day by day, until my death,
I bless your Name, and cling to Christ,
and listen for the Spirit's breath.*

WE RESPOND THROUGH GOD'S LOVE

Call for the Offering

We have been blessed to be a blessing.

Let us give from what we have graciously received.

Prayer of Dedication

*Gracious God.
Bless our offering.
Help us use it to share your love.
Bless our lives.
Use each of us to share your love.
Amen.*

Prayers of the People

*Glory to you, our one God
who is three loving persons,
who created a mysterious order to the universe.*

*We explore your creation
and find both predictability and chaos.*

*There are patterns we can understand
and occurrences that confound our minds.*

*Our households are likewise
both predictable and chaotic.*

*Our finances
bring security and anxiety.*

*Our schedules
bring regularity and surprise.*

*Our property is a gift for enjoyment
and a challenge to generosity.*

*Our loved ones are deeply mysterious
and our surest gateway to your presence.*

We ask you in the sincerity of our hearts that . . .

*May we manage our households
with the wisdom through which you manage the universe.*

*May we harmonize our households
with your created order.*

May we show restraint in our spending.

May we use our time wisely.

May we share the abundant blessings of your physical world.

May we love as you love, through Christ our eternal blessing. Amen.

Gift of Music

WE GO TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

Sending Hymn: Come and Find the Quiet Centre ~ VU 374, vs 3

*3. In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!*

Commissioning & Blessing

Rose Ann Vita

Postlude: May the God of Hope ~ VU 424

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPbxThNCa1Q&ab_channel=GoldenEarsUnitedChurch

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SCRIPTURE RESOURCE: *The Family Story Bible* by Ralph Milton

PRAYERS: Today's prayers have been adapted from Worship Words (<https://worshipwords.co.uk/>) and from *The Practice of Managing Household Life: Experiences of Managing Household Life by Lifelong Faith* ©Lifelong Faith Resources. Used with Permission.

PRESIDING & PREACHING: The Rev. Rose Ann Vita

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