

*Our mission is to love God, to love our neighbor as ourselves,  
and to nurture and strengthen our Christian faith.*

**August 29, 2021**

Presiding –Rev. Tim Nethercott

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*We gather as a Christ-infused Community of Faith*

**PRELUDE**      *Improvisation*

**WELCOME**

**LIGHTING THE CANDLES**

Affirming and Right Relations Candle: May these candles remind us to respect and defend all the wonderful diversity we and all people are created in and to honour the land we live on, the traditional territory of Treaty 7 and Métis 3 peoples.

Christ Candle: May this candle remind us that the light of Christ is with us always; in the world, in the universe and in us.

**FOCUSING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ  
the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**And also with you**

Greetings to our brothers and sisters in the faith.

**We come to celebrate God's presence**

and God's love expressed through Jesus Christ.

**We come remembering Christ's life and ministry**

and the life we are allied to live.

**We come as a pilgrim people**

**searching for way to live out our faith.**

We come seeking the strength to carry on our journey.

**Let us rejoice in God's gift to us!**

**OPENING PRAYER:**

**Come, Mother and Father of the poor**

**Come, Light of our hearts**

**Come, Voice of the silence**

**Come, generous Spirit.**

**By the glory of your creation around us**

**By the comfort of your presence within us**

**By the wind of the Spirit in this place**

**Inspire and renew us,**

**That we may come glad to this celebration. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God,**

**we confess that we have sinned against you,**

**in thought, word and deed,**

**by what we have done,**

**and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you**

**with our whole heart and mind and strength.**

**We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry.**

**In your mercy forgive what we have been,**

**help us to amend what we are,**

**and direct what we shall be;**

**that we may delight in your will**

**and walk in your ways, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**HYMN** *We Are One* VU #402

1 We are one as we come,  
as we come, joyful to be here,  
in the praise on our lips  
there's a sense that God is near.  
We are one as we sing,  
as we seek, we are found;  
and we come needful of God's grace  
as we meet, together in this place.

2 We are one as we share,  
as we share brokenness and fear,  
in the touch of a hand  
there's a sense that God is here.  
We are one as we care,

as we heal, we are healed;  
and we share warmth in God's embrace  
as we pray together in this place.

3 We are one as we feast,  
as we feast, peace becomes the sign;  
in the bread and the wine  
there's a sense of love divine.  
We are one as we come,  
as we feed, we are fed;  
and we feel God's refreshing grace  
as we meet at table in this place.

4 We are one as we hear,  
as we hear, heart and hand unite;  
in the word we receive  
there's a sense that God is light.  
We are one as we leave,  
as we love, we are loved;  
and we seek justice in God's ways  
as we move together from this place.

## **READINGS**

### **Contemporary Words (Chantal: omit this)**

#### **Words from Scripture**

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 (NRSV)

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them.(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me;  
in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."

For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

## MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

### REFLECTION Clean and Unclean

#### HYMN

*As a Chalice Cast of Gold*

VU #505

- 1 As a chalice cast of gold,  
burnished, bright, and brimmed with wine,  
make me, God, as fit to hold  
grace and truth and love divine.  
Let my praise and worship start  
with the cleansing of my heart.
- 2 Save me from the soothing sin  
of the empty cultic deed  
and the pious, babbling din  
of the claimed but unlived creed.  
Let my actions, God, express  
what my tongue and lips profess.
- 3 When I bend upon my knees,  
clasp my hands, or bow my head,  
let my spoken, public pleas  
be directly, simply said,  
free of tangled words that mask  
what my soul would plainly ask.
- 4 When I dance or chant your praise,  
when I sing a psalm or hymn,  
when I preach your loving ways,

let my heart add its amen.  
Let each cherished outward rite  
thus reflect your inward light.

## **HONOURING OUR GIFTS**

**God of abundant life, we offer our gifts with love in response to your great love for us. Fill us with the spirit of the risen Christ and inspire us to live in your way. Amen**

**LITTLE GIFTS OF NEW LIFE – Deb Charnuski**

## **DEDICATION PRAYER**

**Loving God,  
bless these gifts and all the ways in which we give.  
May each of our gifts be a part of co-creating  
and tending to the love, safety, belonging, and dignity  
You envision for the world. Amen.**

## **A TIME OF PRAYER**

Lord of all being and source of every blessing,  
we thank you for all good things:  
for life and love,  
for health and food,  
for work and home,  
for nature's beauty and comfort,  
for human skills and laughter,  
for memory and hope,  
for everything which gives us  
pleasure, nourishment and strength. amen.

And now we pray together the prayer Jesus taught us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**Holy, holy, holy are you,**

**God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are filled with your glory;**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in your name;**

**Hosanna in the highest;**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Words of Institution

The Communion

Prayer after Communion

**O God, through this bread and this cup, you have made us one with you and with each other. May the unity we find at this table be a gift that we carry out into your suffering, divided world. Help us to find strength in knowing that you, the God of peace, will always be with us. Amen**

### BLESSING and SENDING FORTH

**HYMN**                      *Take My Life and Let It Be*

*VU #506*

*1     Take my life, and let it be  
         consecrated, all for thee;  
         take my moments and my days;*

*let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

- 2     *Take my hands, and let them move  
        at the impulse of thy love;  
        take my feet, and let them be  
        swift and purposeful for thee.*
- 3     *Take my lips, and let them be  
        filled with messages from thee;  
        take my intellect, and use  
        every power as thou shalt choose.*
- 4     *Take my will, and make it thine;  
        it shall be no longer mine;  
        take my heart, it is thine own;  
        it shall be thy royal throne.*
- 5     *Take my love: and I will pour  
        at thy feet its treasure store;  
        take myself, and I will be  
        ever, only, all for thee.*

**POSTLUDE**     *Improvisation*