

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

**September 12, 2021**

Presiding – Richard Christmas, Diane Bates Christmas

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

## **SEED OF MEDITATION**

You can believe in whatsoever you like, but the truth remains the truth, no matter how sweet the lie may taste.”

— Michael Bassey Johnson

## **PRELUDE**      *Improvisation*

## **WELCOME**

## **LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

I light the Affirming Candle because if we are to do as Christ taught us, we must affirm that all humanity in its wonderful diversity of race, color and gender must be respected and valued.

I light the Treaty7/Metis Region 3 candle to show respect for their heritage and confirm our continual commitment to live harmoniously and with respect for our indigenous brothers and sisters

## **LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

We light this flame to remind us that where there is light,

**there is understanding;**

Where there is understanding,

**there is compassion;**

Where there is compassion

**there is possibility;**

Where there is possibility

**there is transformation.**

## **HYMN**      *She Comes Sailing on the Wind*      VU #380

She comes sailing on the wind,  
her wings flashing in the sun;  
on a journey just begun, she flies on.  
And in the passage of her flight,  
her song rings out through the night,  
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.

1      Silent waters rocking on the morning of our birth,  
like an empty cradle waiting to be filled.  
And from the heart of God the Spirit moved upon the earth,  
like a mother breathing life into her child. (to Verse 2)

2      Many were the dreamers whose eyes were given sight

when the Spirit filled their dreams with life and form.  
Deserts turned to gardens, broken hearts  
found new delight,  
and then down the ages still she flew on.

- 3 To a gentle girl in Galilee, a gentle breeze she came,  
a whisper softly calling in the dark,  
the promise of a child of peace whose reign would  
never end,  
Mary sang the Spirit song within her heart.
- 4 Flying to the river, she waited circling high  
above the child now grown so full of grace.  
As he rose up from the water, she swept down from the sky,  
and she carried him away in her embrace.
- 5 Long after the deep darkness that fell upon the world,  
after dawn returned in flame of rising sun,  
the Spirit touched the earth again, again her wings unfurled,  
bringing life in wind and fire as she flew on.

She comes sailing on the wind,  
her wings flashing in the sun;  
on a journey just begun, she flies on.  
And in the passage of her flight,  
her song rings out through the night,  
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.

## **OPENING PRAYER**

### **Creator of all**

In Matthew 18:20 we are told that “when two or three gather in the name of Jesus, there am I with them.”

### **We welcome Your Presence in our service this morning**

God of love sometimes our faith falters. It is easy to get tangled up in the problems and worries of our own lives and it is difficult to remember that maybe the best is yet to come -even when that best isn't what we imagined it to be or when that will be.

### **We would like to be able to be in total control of our life all the time and in every circumstance but we know that isn't possible.**

This morning we turn all those thoughts, worries and anxieties that diminish our enthusiasm for life and cloud our happiness over to YOUR CARE.

### **We remind ourselves that even when it seems impossible, You are there working on our behalf, behind what is visible -but we are impatient and want our problems fixed quickly. So grant us patience.**

When we are worried and anxious that negative energy separates us from YOU and sometimes each other. Let us drop those burdens - right now by transferring them to YOUR care.

We want our health problems repaired quickly but bodies, minds and spirits take time to heal.

**Grant us patience and guide the hands and minds of those who are in the healing community for their work on our behalf and our communit. We celebrate their dedication, caring and skill in this demanding time and ask that you bless them on our behalf**

We begin our worship this morning with those ideas in mind as we worship YOU with our intellect and our gratitude for the innumerable blessings that we may take for granted.

**ANTHEM** *When at Creation's Dawn There Was No Sound*

*James E. Clemens & Jean Janzen*

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

**Matthew 7: 15-** from the end of Christ's sermon on the Mount.

And Jesus said--

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

#### **1 Timothy 6:20.**

Timothy was a close companion of the apostle Paul, a member of his missionary team. He was often sent to revisit and teach churches started by the great apostle.

And Paul writes--

Timothy guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge.

**2 Timothy 4:3-4** This is considered to be Paul's final letter just before his execution in Rome and again he is writing to Timothy to encourage him to continue his teaching in the face of growing opposition. And Paul writes For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

#### **Contemporary Wisdom**

Common sense is a science exactly in so far as it fulfills the ideal of common sense; that is, sees facts as they are, or at any rate, without the distortion of prejudice and reasons from them in accordance with the dictates of sound judgement. And science is simply common sense at its best, that is, rigidly accurate in observation and merciless to fallacy in logic.  
Thomas Huxley

Thomas Huxley (1825-1895) was an English biologist and anthropologist specialising in comparative anatomy. He is known as "Darwin's Bulldog" for his advocacy of Charles Darwin's theory

The grandest discoveries of science have been but the rewards of accurate measurement and patient long continued labour in the minute sifting of numerical results. Lord Kelvin

Lord Kelvin (1824-1907) Scottish engineer, mathematician, and physicist who profoundly influenced the scientific thought of his generation.

There are in fact two things, science and opinion: the former begets knowledge, the latter ignorance. Hippocrates

Hippocrates (460-370 BC) Greek physician of the Age of Pericles, who is considered one of the most outstanding figures in the history of medicine.

### **REFLECTION 'Science God and Us'**

#### **HYMN Earth and All Stars VU #888**

- 1 Earth and all stars,  
loud rushing planets  
sing to our God a new song!  
Hail, wind, and rain,  
loud blowing snowstorm  
sing to our God a new song!  
    God has done marvellous things.  
    We will sing praises with a new song!
  
- 2 Steel and machines,  
loud pounding hammers  
sing to our God a new song!  
Limestone and beams,  
loud building workers  
sing to our God a new song! R
  
- 3 Classrooms and labs,  
loud boiling test tubes  
sing to our God a new song!  
Athlete and band,  
loud cheering people  
sing to our God a new song! R
  
- 4 Knowledge and truth,  
loud sounding wisdom  
sing to our God a new song!  
Daughter and son,  
loud praying elders  
sing to our God a new song! R

#### **COMMUNITY PRAYER**

**Open our hearts to the loving care of our earth and those in need.**

We remember those living in repression and with the threat of daily deadly violence.

We remember those languishing in refugee camps in terrible circumstances.

We remember those whose homes have been destroyed and lives lost by weather born disasters. We ask for your guidance for our political leaders that they may lead with wisdom, caring, unselfish motives and with ideas that will benefit the earth and all people. Guide us as we vote to make the best decisions.

We ask that you provide us with the wisdom to discern truth from falsehood, to ignore those false prophets who would lead us astray.

We remember those family and friends who struggle with physical or mental disease and those who live with chronic pain or the knowledge that earthly life is coming to a close.

**Direct our thoughts and decisions so that we can be effective by melding and coalescing our positive flow of energy by helping those through our prayers or time or money.**

**Grant us wisdom to be able to make the best choices for the health of our earth, and our country in the way we live and vote.**

**We know that is God is mysterious and at times appears unavailable but always there in our hearts when we take a few moments to slow down and ask for strength.**

The following is my paraphrase of the Lord's prayer. Please use the traditional one if you want

Our Creator who is beyond our understanding

We honor your Name in the way that we live and love

Give us daily what we need to nourish mind, body and soul

Forgive us when knowingly or unknowingly we hurt others in thought word or deed as we forgive them when they offend us

Steer us away from those circumstances that would tempt us to harm ourselves or others in the choices we make.

For your existence is timeless and everlasting. Amen

## **COLLECTION**

We present these gifts in gratitude for the blessings we enjoy- knowing that these gifts will be the means that will help Your Will to be done on earth. Amen

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**HYMN**      *Faith of Our Fathers*                      VU #580

1      *Faith of our fathers, living still  
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;  
O how our hearts beat high with joy,  
whene'er we hear that glorious word:  
faith of our fathers, holy faith,*

*we will be true to you till death.*

2 *Faith of our mothers, daring faith,  
your work for Christ is love revealed,  
spreading God's word from pole to pole,  
making love known and freedom real:  
faith of our mothers, holy faith,  
we will be true to you till death.*

3 *Faith of our sisters, brothers too,  
who still must bear oppression's might,  
raising on high, in prisons dark,  
the cross of Christ still burning bright:  
faith for today, O living faith,  
we will be true to you till death.*

4 *Faith born of God, O call us yet;  
bind us with all who follow you,  
sharing the struggle of your cross  
until the world is made anew.  
Faith born of God, O living faith,  
we will be true to you till death.*

### **BENEDICTION**

We leave now to continue our lives and relationships outside of this  
sanctuary

Strengthened by our communal faith

Fortified with courage

Willing to be patient

Directed by Your Love.

Amen

### **CHORAL BLESSING**

*A Clare Benediction*

*John Rutter*

### **POSTLUDE**

*Improvisation*