**September 26, 2021**

Pre Service Slides

10:30 AM

Screen

**Prelude (Colin Bonneau)**

Pulpit

News and announcements

1. Welcome back events, October
2. Worship services celebrating seasons! This week seasons of our lives.

Center

***Candles*** *are lit*

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**Call to Worship**

Strong and Tender One,

**we approach you today filled with childlike wonder and a willingness to express ourselves beyond our comfort level.**

Open us so we may soar beyond the comfort of the present.

**Move us into your presence more and more, day by day. Amen.**

Loving God, Creator and keeper of all life, we praise you this day.

In each opening bud, in each blossoming tree,

you invite us to see your presence and to find ourselves as part of all life.

You, our maker, nourish us with beauty and ancient words of wisdom and call.

We are born from you, and in you we live and move and grow

as your community of faith.

Deepen our appreciation for your wonder and mystery

rooted in our veins as life blood, as spirit song, as the ground of our being.

As a child is formed in their mother’s womb, we are formed in you, each one of us

being made into your body, your church, your blessing for the world. Amen.

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**Hymn:** **VU 442 *Wash, O God***

Center

**Connecting Time Baptism and Confirmation** –a sign of love already there, matched with our commitment as congregation and individuals.

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**Sing with kids: VU 357 verses 1, 2, 4** *Tell Me the Stories of Jesus*

Center

**Reading from Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3: 1-15**

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

**2**a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
**3**a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
**4**a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
**5**a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
**6**a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
**7**a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
**8**a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

**9**What gain have the workers from their toil? **10**I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. **11**God has made everything suitable for its time; moreover God has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. **12**I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; **13**moreover, it is God’s gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. **14**I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before God. **15**That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by.

**Esther 4: 10-17 and chapter 7: 1-6**

**10**Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai, saying, **11**“All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—all alike are to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden scepter to someone, may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days.” **12**When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, **13**Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. **14**For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father’s family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.” **15**Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, **16**“Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish.” **17**Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

**1**So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. **2**On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, “What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.” **3**Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. **4**For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated.

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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** *Seasons of our Lives – Hearing Call (Vocation) and Choosing Family*

*Singing* ***VU 509 throughout CHORUS ONLY***

Pulpit

Invitation to offering:

God calls us to be part of this world, not only to partake but also to contribute to it, reflecting God’s love for all creation. Let’s give to God the best of ourselves, the first fruits of our labours, if you will. Let us gather and present our offering.

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**DOXOLOGY AGCS # 63 An Offering song**

Prayer over offering:

We bring you, O God, our offering from the abundance your earth has provided.

May these gifts that come from the rich soil, the depths of mines and oceans, and the labour of muscle, mind, and machine be used to bring healing to our neighbours and healing to our planet home. Amen.

Pulpit

**Prayer of the People**

Precious Lord,

At the beginning and end of life before we can walk, or when walking has become too hard. You hold us, and move us, and carry us on the way.

When we step out, on the great adventure of falling in love, and becoming and choosing a family, you support us, and encourage us, and lead us on the way.

When children are all grown, and life returns to quiet days

and being together, in a new home, as a couple again, in life, and in death,

You are there, keeping company, reminding us that life is short

so remember to love, as you love, on the way.

When life begins again with new adventures and a new friend,

you are there, in the dancing, in the music

in each new day, and in this new day

as the dance continues, as the trilliums bloom,

as friends and loved ones gather, to give thanks

as you hold us, and move us, and carry us on the way. Amen.

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***Hymn VU 670*** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

**The Lord’s Prayer (Strathdees)**

**Commissioning:**

Gracious God,

**we offer you our soft selves,**

honestly and timidly,

**knowing you are a good and gentle God.**

Take all the seasons of our lives and transform them into seasons of love and compassion.

**Cultivate in us your new life. Amen.**

**Hymn: VU 710** *Shall We Gather at The River*

Post Service Slides

**Postlude (Colin Bonneau)**

Today’s prayers were written (or inspired by) ***Jim McKean, Wendy MacLean, Selina Mullin,***andare used with permission, taken from Gathering, Pentecost 2, 2021.