

FIRST UNITED CHURCH

16 William Street West, Waterloo, Ontario

(519) 745-8487 www.firstunitedchurch.ca

Building Relationships. Living God's Transforming Love.

Sunday, January 16, 2022

WE ARE GATHERED FOR WORSHIP

Prelude *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* arr. John Carter

Acknowledgement of the Land, Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Music Ministry *God Be in My Head* (VU 430 adapted) *H. Walford Davies, arr. N.Jenkins*

God be in my head, and in my understanding;

God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;

God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;

God be in my heart, and in my thinking;

God be at mine end, and at my departing.

Opening Words - A Poem: *God is a Verb* by Kris Minister

God is a verb

Living within you and me

Fleshing our flesh

Rejoicing our joy

Crying our sorrow

And empowering us to swim upstream.

Goding despair with a healing

that cancels resignation,

We act as if we are secure,

Laughing as we falter,

Singing through our pain

And celebrating the gift of being.

Opening Prayer

One: Holy God, even here, even now, you are with us:

All: And so we pray—hover over this swirl of words that make up a prayer.

Read between the lines. See what weighs heavy on us.

Know what distracts and carry it all away. We are giving it all to you.

All: *(Pray silently to yourself)*

I am clearing out space. I am opening myself up to draw closer to your heart.

And to let your hope, peace, joy, and love come within my breast.

Let me dwell fully in your presence during our worship time today.

Gratefully I pray.

One: Amen

Opening Hymn *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise (VU 101, vs 1,2,4)*

1 *Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus Christ, to you we raise,
manifested by the star to the sages from afar;
branch of royal David's stem in your birth at Bethlehem;
anthems be to you addressed, God in flesh made manifest.*

2 *Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
and at Cana wedding guest, in your Godhead manifest;
manifest in power divine, changing water into wine;
anthems be to you addressed, God in flesh made manifest.*

4 *Grant us grace to see you, Lord, mirrored in your holy Word;
with your grace our lives endow, grace to imitate you now,
that we like to you may be at your great epiphany,
anthems be to you addressed, God in flesh made manifest.*

Children's Time *In My Heart: A Book of Feelings*

WE ARE INSPIRED BY SCRIPTURE, SERMON, AND SONG

Scripture: John 2:1-12 The Wedding at Cana

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' ⁴ And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' ⁵ His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' ⁶ Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So, they took it. ⁹ When the steward tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' ¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. ¹² After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples; and they remained there for a few days.

Sermon

God is a Verb

The Rev. Rose Ann Vita

Sermon Hymn

My Love Colours Outside the Lines (MV 138)

1. *My love colours outside the lines,
exploring paths that few could ever find;
and takes me into places
where I've never been before,
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.*

2. *My Lord colours outside the lines,
turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;
and takes me into places
where I've never been before
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.*

REFRAIN: *We'll never walk on water
if we're not prepared to drown,
body and soul need a soaking from time to time.
And we'll never move the grave-stones if we're not prepared to die,
and realize there are worlds outside the lines.*

3. *My soul longs to colours outside the lines,
tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;
I want to walk beyond the boundaries where I've never been before,
throw open doors to worlds outside the lines. (Refrain)*
4. *My soul longs to colours outside the lines,
tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;
I want to walk beyond the boundaries where I've never been before,
throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.*

WE GIVE FROM WHAT WE HAVE RECEIVED

Call for the Offering

Response *Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary (MV 18)*
*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy tried and true; with thanksgiving,
I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

Dedication

Prayers of the People

Joanne and John MacPhail (Recorded)

We are powerfully moved by a deep concern for our world and our care for one another.
May ours be a faith that is more than words and ideals. May ours be a faith of vitality and
compassion and action.

(Silence)

We lament that there are many people in the world who are burdened by hunger and pain,
by sorrow and anxiety, by violence and loss, by natural disasters, lack of resources, and
poverty.

(Silence)

May they find comfort and peace, and may their burdens be lifted from them by our actions
as peacemakers and doers of justice.

(Silence)

May we find ourselves moved to work toward a better world.
May we be given wisdom and will and energy to take part in the lifting of burdens.
May our gratitude find expression in the care of others, both near and far.
May we sacrifice to protect and nurture our environment and earthly resources.
May we find ways to live and grow on the margins where new life happens.
May we offer others encouragement and hope and sustenance.
And having spoken much, perhaps too much...
Now without a word we rest in your Eternal Presence.

(Silence)

This is our prayer. Amen.

WE GO BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

Sending Hymn *Kind Wedding Guest* (Tune: THORNBURY, Words© Gordon Wray, 2005)

*Kind Wedding Guest of Cana, please grace our feast today.
Grant ample cup of blessing to all of us we pray.
As we are celebrating, our cheerful voices raise
with joy and jubilation. The love of God we praise.*

*Gift us with transformation! Like water into wine,
transform our very being. Exalt our hearts and minds.
Bright hope infuse our being; strong faith our souls secure.
This world is ever-changing; the love of God is sure.*

*Though miracles astound us please help us comprehend
the one-on-one compassion and care that you extend.
Your pardon and forgiveness, your touch to heal our pain,
your words to soothe or challenge, the love of God make plain*

*Grand miracles aren't needed to do as you require.
To love God and our neighbor is what you most desire.
Our neighbour stands beside us; our mission close to home.
May our each word and action the love of God make known.*

Blessing

May we receive blessings from our loved ones who have gone before us.
And blessings from the angels who surround us for the work that's ours to do.

May we bless the earth upon whom we depend and care for it tenderly.
And bless our church by participating in its life.

But most of all, may the love of God flow to us and through us,
so, we may be blessed to be a blessing for those we meet this week. Amen.

Commissioning

The time of worship is ended and so we return to the world.
May we do so with the assurance that in this bewildering time,
that God has already gone before us. The Spirit of God is our guiding light,
pointing to the way of extreme compassion and loving-kindness.

Know deep in your heart that God loves each one of us unconditionally.
And sometimes, sometimes God is mischievous and surprises us
with abundant grace to do amazing things. May it be so! Amen

Postlude *Postlude on THORNBURY*

Setting by Kathleen King Martin

Today's Worship Leaders

Presiding and Preaching: The Rev. Rose Ann Vita, Minister of Worship and Pastoral Care

Lighting the Christ Candle, Call for the Offering, and Dedication: The Rev. Harry Disher, Intentional Interim Minister

Musician: Kathleen King Martin and Autumn Debassige, Soloist

Readers: Joanne and John MacPhail

AV Team: Harold Arnett, Matthew Savage, Greg Case

CREDITS:

Land Acknowledgement: Adapted from Lori Van Santvoort-Jansekovich, Broadway U.C., Thunder Bay, Ont.

Children's Time: *In My Heart: A Book of Feelings (Growing Hearts)* by author Jo Witek and illustrator Christine Roussey is available on Amazon

Prayers of the People: Adapted from <https://www.rexaehuntprogressive.com>

Sending Song: *Kind Wedding Guest*, Words© Gordon Wray, 2005