**January 16, 2022**

Pre Service Slides

10:30 AM

Screen

**Prelude (Colin Bonneau)**

Pulpit

Land Acknowledgement

News and announcements

Tuesday Matinee movies this week and Feb 1st, Bible study Wed at 10:30

Screen **+**

**Candle lighting**

We light this candle, honouring the One who said “I am the Light.”

**Call to Worship**

This is the day that God has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

This morning we gather to celebrate and pray for Christian Unity.

**We join our spirits in prayer, in song, in praise.**

As siblings in faith,

**let us glorify God as we worship together.**

### Opening Prayer

Gracious God, as fear tightens its grip on some, while others ignore all advice about caring for one another, as we fight an enemy that we cannot always recognize, open us to the needs of others, even when, especially when, those others have a different way of life, a different creed, or different politics.

**Help us to understand the whole world as the community you ask us to love.**

May we receive the help we need from your Spirit to overcome barriers and embrace a common humanity for the healing of your beloved world. **Amen.**

Pulpit

**Opening Prayer**

Gracious God, we come today to worship you, confident as always that you are with us. You receive our prayers, our laments, and our celebrations. As we gather today, make us one in spirit and one in body as you yourself were embodied in the person of Jesus, in whose name we pray and worship. Amen.

Screen **+**

**Opening Hymn:** **VU 402** *We Are One* Verse 1, 2 and 4

Pulpit**+**

Connecting Time

Center

**Reading from Scripture:**

**1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a from the Message paraphrase**

You can easily enough see how this kind of thing works by looking no further than your own body. Your body has many parts—limbs, organs, cells—but no matter how many parts you can name, you’re still one body. It’s exactly the same with Christ. By means of his one Spirit, we all said good-bye to our partial and piecemeal lives. We each used to independently call our own shots, but then we entered into a large and integrated life in which *he* has the final say in everything. (This is what we proclaimed in word and action when we were baptized.) Each of us is now a part of his resurrection body, refreshed and sustained at one fountain—his Spirit—where we all come to drink. The old labels we once used to identify ourselves—labels like Jew or Greek, slave or free—are no longer useful. We need something larger, more comprehensive.

I want you to think about how all this makes you more significant, not less. A body isn’t just a single part blown up into something huge. It’s all the different-but-similar parts arranged and functioning together. If Foot said, “I’m not elegant like Hand, embellished with rings; I guess I don’t belong to this body,” would that make it so? If Ear said, “I’m not beautiful like Eye, transparent and expressive; I don’t deserve a place on the head,” would you want to remove it from the body? If the body was all eye, how could it hear? If all ear, how could it smell? As it is, we see that God has carefully placed each part of the body right where he wanted it.

But I also want you to think about how this keeps your significance from getting blown up into self-importance. For no matter how significant you are, it is only because of what you are a *part* of. An enormous eye or a gigantic hand wouldn’t be a body, but a monster. What we have is one body with many parts, each its proper size and in its proper place. No part is important on its own. Can you imagine Eye telling Hand, “Get lost; I don’t need you”? Or, Head telling Foot, “You’re fired; your job has been phased out”? As a matter of fact, in practice it works the other way—the “lower” the part, the more basic, and therefore necessary. You can live without an eye, for instance, but not without a stomach. When it’s a part of your own body you are concerned with, it makes *no* difference whether the part is visible or clothed, higher or lower. You give it dignity and honor just as it is, without comparisons. If anything, you have more concern for the lower parts than the higher. If you had to choose, wouldn’t you prefer good digestion to full-bodied hair?

The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don’t, the parts we see and the parts we don’t. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance.

You are Christ’s body—that’s who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your “part” mean anything. You’re familiar with some of the parts that God has formed in his church, which is his “body”:

Apostles, prophets, teachers, miracle workers, healers, helpers, organizers, those who pray in tongues.

But it’s obvious by now, isn’t it, that Christ’s church is a complete Body and not a gigantic, unidimensional Part? It’s not all Apostle, not all Prophet, not all Miracle Worker, not all Healer, not all Prayer in Tongues, not all Interpreter of Tongues. And yet some of you keep competing for so-called “important” parts. But now I want to lay out a far better way for you.

**Luke 4:14-21**

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
    because he has anointed me  
        to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
    and recovery of sight to the blind,  
        to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Screen**+**

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.**

**Center**

*Anthem*

Pulpit

**Sermon:** *Gift of the Spirit: Unity even in Diversity*

Screen **+**

**Hymn: MV 174** *Soil of God*

**Invitation to offering**

Life is a blessing from the Divine Creator. As disciples, we are encouraged to be the words and actions of the Divine. So, let us come to offer our talents, our skills, and our very being as an offering to do God’s work in the world. Your offering will now be received.

**Prayer over offering**

Creator God, accept these gifts with our love and gratitude for all you give us. Guided by your Spirit, may we do your will to further the work of Jesus, that of compassion and justice in our world. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

DOXOLOGY : **VU 540** *Grant us, God, the Grace*

Pulpit+

**Prayers of the People** with sung refrain: MV 175

Leigh: You have gift for us as we enter the new year, O God.

Refrain: *May we but wait upon Love’s word, knowing our prayer is heard.*

*Including*

Merciful God, heal the discord among Christian denominations,

healing in the same mind as Christ.

Bring us together in unity, unity in the same mind as Christ.

Help us tear down walls of separation, working in the same mind as Christ.

Open our hearts and minds with love, loving with the same mind as Christ.

Use us for your service in the world, serving in the same mind as Christ. Amen.

Screen **+**

**The Lord’s Prayer (**tune VU 713**)**

**Hymn: VU 232** *Joyful Joyful* **Verses 1 and 3**

**Commissioning**

Go forth to be God’s people.

**God’s love for us will never change.**

Go forth to embody God’s love to and for others.

**God’s love for us will never change.**

Go forth to the world that God loves.

**We go and we will seek to be that love we know through Jesus and in this community.**

**Blessing Song:***May the Light, Love and Wisdom*

Post Service Slides

**Postlude (Colin Bonneau)**

Today’s prayers were written (or inspired by) ***Heather Grobb, Elaine Bidgood Sveet,******Jim McKean, Carol Frost, Beth W Johnston.*** They are used with permission, taken from *Gathering*, Advent/Epiphany 2021-2022.