

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH**

16 William Street West, Waterloo, Ontario

(519) 745-8487 [www.firstunitedchurch.ca](http://www.firstunitedchurch.ca)

*Building Relationships. Living God's Transforming Love.*

**Sunday, February 13, 2022**

**WE ARE GATHERED FOR WORSHIP**

**Prelude**

**Acknowledgement of the Land, Welcome & Announcements**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

Praised be to You, our God, Sovereign of the universe,  
Creator of light and darkness, who makes peace and fashions all things.  
In mercy, You illumine the world and those who live upon it.

In Your goodness and wisdom, You daily renew creation,  
bringing all beings and non-beings into existence,  
filling the earth with Your creatures. How numerous are Your works!

Praised be to You, our God, for the excellent work of Your hands,  
Praise be for the lights You created; may they glorify You.  
Praise be for Christ, our guiding light, for Christ the light of the world.

Christ has come into the world to illumine the way to You.  
Praised be to You, our God, Sovereign of the universe,  
and to Christ and to the Holy Spirit. Amen

**Call to Worship**

One: Why have you come to worship today?

All: **We have come to worship today to offer thanks.  
Thanks for health and healing, for labor and repose.  
Thanks for renewal of beauty in earth and sky  
Thanks for that blend of human-holy which inspires compassion  
Thanks for hope: eternal, promising light.**

One: For life, for health, for hope, for beautiful, bountiful blessing,  
let us come to worship today to offer our thanks and praise. Amen

**Opening Prayer**

One: Let us pray:

Prayer must move us beyond ourselves. Prayer should not reflect “me;”  
rather prayer should reflect our values and ideals.

God is not in our image; we are in God’s.

ALL: **Praise God in the depths of the universe; praise God in the human heart.**

**Praise God for power and beauty, for all-feeling, fathomless love.**

**Praise God with drums and trumpets, with string quartets and guitars.**

**Praise God in market and workplace, with computer, with hammer and nails.**

**Praise God in bedroom and kitchen; praise God with pots and pans.**

**Praise God in our present moment; let our every breath be God’s praise. Amen**

**Opening Hymn**      *Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet*    VU 245

1      *Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet,  
          praise the Lord with the harp and lute,  
          praise the Lord with the gentle-sounding flute.*

*Praise the Lord in the field and forest,  
          praise the Lord in the city square,  
          praise the Lord anytime and anywhere.*

*Praise the Lord in the wind and sunshine,  
          praise the Lord in the dark of night,  
          praise the Lord in the rain or  
                  snow or in the morning light.*

*Praise the Lord in the deepest valley,  
          praise the Lord on the highest hill,  
          praise the Lord, never let your voice be still.*

2      *Praise the Lord with the crashing cymbal,  
          praise the Lord with the pipe and string,  
          praise the Lord with the joyful songs you sing.*

*Praise the Lord on a weekday morning,  
          praise the Lord on a Sunday noon,  
          praise the Lord by the light of sun or moon.*

*Praise the Lord in the time of sorrow,  
          praise the Lord in the time of joy,  
          praise the Lord every moment,  
                  nothing let your praise destroy.*

*Praise the Lord in the peace and quiet,  
          praise the Lord in your work or play,  
          praise the Lord everywhere in every way!*

## Introduction to Children's Time

**Children's Time**      *While We Can't Hug | There are many other ways to show love!*

**Children's Prayer**      *Have a Heart Day Prayer*

Dear God,

We know that you love all children the same  
and want us all to grow up healthy, safe, and strong  
with our families and in our communities.

Help us make sure that everyone has a warm home,  
a safe and comfy school, clean water,  
and the people who love us and care for us.

Help the people who make these decisions  
make them out of love.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## WE ARE INSPIRED BY SCRIPTURE, SERMON, AND SONG

### Introduction to Hymn of Illumination

**Illumination Hymn**      *First-Born of Mary*      MV 110

*First-born of Mary, provocative preacher,  
Itinerant teacher, outsider's choice;  
Jesus inspires and disarms and confuses  
whoever he chooses to hear his voice.*

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain, and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

May this scripture be fulfilled today in our hearing. Amen

**Sermon**      *Pre-Easter Jesus*

**Sermon Hymn**      *Because Jesus Felt*      MV 186

1. *Because Jesus felt a woman touch his coat,  
and said, "Your faith has made you well,"  
I know that God takes notice,  
and knows my name, and loves us all:*

*Refrain*

*So thank you, thank you, God. Thank you, God!*

*Thank you, thank you, God. Thank you, God!*

2. *Because Jesus ate with people who'd gone wrong,  
and said, "You are forgiven now,"  
I know that God forgives me,  
and hears my name, and loves us all: (Refrain)*

3. *Because Jesus went to heal a little girl,  
and said, "Get up, and have some food,"  
I know God cares about me,  
and speaks my name, and loves us all: (Refrain)*

4. *Because Jesus sat with children on his knee,  
and said, "I'm glad to meet you all,"  
I know God thinks I'm lovely,  
and sings my name, and loves us all: (Refrain)*

5. *Because Jesus lived and died, and lives with God,  
and says' "I'm with you all the time,"  
I know that God is near me,  
and calls my name, and loves us all: (Refrain)*

### **WE GIVE FROM WHAT WE HAVE RECEIVED**

#### **Call for the Offering**

Give us compassionate hearts, O God, that our lives may reflect generosity, integrity, and courage. Disturb our comfortableness so we may be moved to act for justice and equity so all people may be respected and live lives of dignity as your beloved children. Move us to give financially what we can so that ministry may take place through First United Church and the Ministry and Service of the United Church of Canada. May we live faithfully and act bravely where your blessings are needed. We pray in Your Holy Name, for you are the One who embodies empowerment and abundant love. Amen

**Reflection**

*True Love by Richard Rohr*

**(Video)**

## Dedication

Dear God, bless the financial gifts that have given to support the life and ministry of your people. Through these gifts, enable us to be your presence in the world. And thank you for giving us the heart and ability to give. Amen

**Music Ministry**      *His Eye is in the Sparrow*

## Prayers of the People

One    We celebrate that where people are gathered together in love  
All    **God is present and good things happen and life is full.**

One    We celebrate that we are immersed in mystery  
         that our lives are more than they seem  
All    **that we belong to each other and to a universe of great creative energies,  
         whose source and destiny is God.**

One    We celebrate that the Spirit of God beat in the heart of Jesus of Nazareth  
All    **and God's good news was heard by the broken and wounded.**

One    We are glad that the spirit of peace is present with us, the church,  
All    **as we gather to celebrate our common existence, and the fidelity of God.**

One    And most deeply we believe that in our struggle to love,  
All    **we incarnate God in the world.**

One    And so aware of mystery and wonder, caught in friendship and laughter,  
All    **we become speechless before the joy in our hearts  
         as we celebrate the sacredness of life.**

One    Now take a moment to pray silently in your heart for one another.  
         *[one minute of silent prayer]*

One    Amen

## WE GO BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

## Introduction to Sending Hymn

**Sending Hymn**      *Though I May Speak*      VU 372

1      *Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
         and have the gift to all inspire,  
         and have not love, my words are vain,  
         as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.*

2      *Though I may give all I possess,  
         and striving so my love profess,  
         but not be given by love within,*

*the profit soon turns strangely thin.*

3     *Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,  
our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
by this we worship, and are freed.*

### **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.  
Yes, God loves you! And sometimes, sometimes God is mischievous and  
surprises us with abundant grace to do amazing things. May it be so! Amen

### **Postlude**

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#### **TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

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

**Musician:** Kathleen King Martin and Cydney Morris, Soloist

**Lectors:** Annette and Gordon Wray

**AV Team:** Harold Arnett, Matthew Savage, Greg Case

**CREDITS:** (In order of appearance)

**Land Acknowledgement:** Adapted from *Called to be the Church* - Epiphany Liturgies, UCCan.

**Children's Time:** *While We Can't Hug* by Eoin Mclaughlin and Polly Dunbar. Found on YouTube.

**Children's Prayer:** Found on <https://united-church.ca/news/> - February 14, 2022 and [www.kairoscanada.org](http://www.kairoscanada.org)

**Christ Candle, Call to Worship and Opening Prayer:** Adapted from Frishman, Elyse. *Mishkan T'filah: A Reform Siddur: Complete: Shabbat, Weekdays, and Festivals* (Transliterated), CCAR Press. (Pages 60, 2, 35 respectively)

**Call for the Offering** Adapted from the Rev. Michael N Jagerssar, Mission secretary - Europe and Caribbean regions at Council for World Mission. *World Mission. He is based in Birmingham, UK.*

**Reflection:** *True Love* by Richard Rohr - Found on YouTube

**Prayers of the People:** From [https://www.rexaehuntprogressive.com/liturgy\\_collection](https://www.rexaehuntprogressive.com/liturgy_collection) (Feb 13, 2022)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBg-KpdEoAw>