**Trinity United Church**

**May 15, 2022 Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Christ is Risen!**

Welcome to Trinity United Church. We strive to be a safe community for all; regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background, religious affiliation or sexual orientation. We are all invited guests of God.

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We acknowledge that for many thousands of years the indigenous people of Turtle Island walked on this land. We are thankful to share in the special spirit of this place, rich in the energy of Mother Earth and the love of all creation.

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

*Joyfully the Christ Candle is lit, reminding us of Christ’s resurrection love in our midst.*

**The Introit – VU 187 (verse 1)**

The spring has come, let all the church be part of it!

The world has changed, and God is at the heart of it!

New light, new day, new colour after winter grey.

New light, new day, the spring has come,

let all the Church be part of it!

**Announcements and Opportunities@Trinity**

**Call to Worship** *(source United Church of Christ)*

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.

*(G.M.Hopkins – Victorian era poet)*

**Praise God!**

The universe is a communion of subjects, not a collection of objects. *(Thomas Berry – Catholic Priest and Cultural Historian)*

**Praise God from the heavens!**

Now is the time to join all creation in extolling God, from the depths of the sea to the farthest galaxies. The Earth is a sparkling blue and white jewel laced with slowly swirling veils of white, like a pearl in a thick sea of black mystery. *(Edgar Mitchell – Apollo 14 astronaut)*

**Praise God from the deepest sea to the farthest star.**

Great Spirit give me strength to walk the soft earth, a relative to all that is. *(Black Elk – Holy Man of the Oglala Lakota)* **Praise God, all you people in the richness of humanity.**

Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. *(Rachel Carson – American Biologist)*

**Praise God in the grace of Creation’s new life!**

**VU 703 In the Bulb There Is a Flower**

In the bulb there is a flower;

in the seed, an apple tree;

in cocoons, a hidden promise:

butterflies will soon be free!

In the cold and snow of winter

there’s a spring that waits to be,

unrevealed until its season,

something God alone can see.

There’s a song in every silence,

seeking word and melody;

there’s a dawn in every darkness,

bringing hope to you and me.

From the past will come the future;

what it holds, a mystery,

unrevealed until its season,

something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning;

in our time, infinity;

in our doubt there is believing;

in our life, eternity.

In our death, a resurrection;

at the last, a victory,

unrevealed until its season,

something God alone can see.

**Opening Prayer**

Gracious Lord, we are in awe of how you make all things new. In the gift of your creation, we are nurtured and cared for and, in the gift of your creation, we are called to nurture and care in our turn. Yours is the love that in strength and beauty surrounds us. As we gather in worship, we pray that like Peter, our hearts and minds may be open to the new vision of where your love leads. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

**Prayer of Reflection and Growth**

**In words of scripture, Jesus gives us a new commandment…as I have loved you, you also should love one another.**

But it isn’t always easy, O God, to love beyond hurtful words or painful grudges; or to love beyond prejudice and disagreement.

**In words of scripture, Jesus gives us a new commandment…as I have loved you, you also should love one another.**

But it isn’t always easy, O God, to love beyond different customs; or to love beyond the artificial walls we build.

*…a time for silent reflection*

**Words of Affirmation**

In Jesus, love is patient.

**As we listen and refuse to judge, God’s love comes home to us.**

In Jesus, love is kind.

**As we reflect and put ourselves in the other person’s shoes, God’s love comes home to us.**

In Jesus, love is not irritable or resentful;

**As we take positive action to bring change, as Jesus did, God’s love comes home to us.**

In the never-ending grace of a love beyond all other love, God’s love comes home to us and we find new life.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**MV 178 Who Is My Mother**

Who is my mother, who is my brother?

All those who gather round Jesus Christ:

Spirit blown people born from the Gospel

sit at the table, round Jesus Christ.

Differently abled, differently labelled,

widen the circle round Jesus Christ:

crutches and stigmas, culture’s enigmas,

all come together round Jesus Christ.

Love will relate us colour or status

can’t segregate us round Jesus Christ:

family failings, human derailings

all are accepted round Jesus Christ.

Bound by one vision, met for one mission

we claim each other, round Jesus Christ:

here is my mother, here is my brother,

kindred in Spirit, through Jesus Christ.

**Revelation 21:1-6** *I saw a new heaven and a new earth.*

Commentary: trying to understand Revelation

**Psalm 148 (VU p. 871)**

*Refrain: Let the whole creation cry,*

*“Glory be to God on high.”*

Praise God from the heavens; give praise in the heights!

Give praise, all you angels; praise God, all you hosts!

**Praise God, sun and moon; give praise, stars**

**and lights!**

**Praise God, farthest heavens, and all waters**

**beyond heaven! R**

Let all things praise the Holy One at whose command they were created, who established them for all time, setting bounds, which cannot be passed.

**Praise God from the earth, great sea creatures**

**and ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and**

**frost, gales that obey God’s decree,**

all mountains and hills, all fruit trees and cedars,

wild animals and cattle, creatures winged and earth-bound,

**sovereigns who rule earth and its people,**

**all who govern and judge this world,**

**young men and women alike, old people and**

**children together. R**

Let all things praise the name of God, the name above every other, whose splendour covers heaven and earth.

**You give strength to your people,**

**songs of praise to your faithful,**

**to Israel, the people dear to your heart. R**

**Scripture Readings**

**Acts 11:1-18** *Peter’s vision of unclean animals.*

**John 13:31-35** *A new commandment: love one another.*

**Sermon: Opening Out** *(Rev. Mary Elizabeth Piercy)*

**MV 30 It’s a Song of Praise to the Maker**

It’s a song of praise to the Maker,

the thrush sings high in the tree.

It’s a song of praise to the Maker,

the gray whale sings in the sea,

*Refrain: And by the Spirit you and I can*

*join our voice to the holy cry and*

*sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.*

It’s a call of life to the Giver

when waves and waterfalls roar.

It’s a call of life to the Giver

when high tides break on the shore,

*Refrain*

It’s a hymn of love to the Lover;

The bumblebees hum along.

It’s a hymn of love to the Lover;

the summer breeze joins the song,

*Refrain*

It’s the chorus of all creation;

Its sung by all living things.

It’s the chorus of all creation;

a song the universe sings,

*Refrain*

**Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer (sung VU 960)**

**Acknowledgement of Offerings**

We acknowledge with deep gratitude the many gifts of money, time, talent and prayer that allow this faith community to continue to share God’s love and hope in our world.

**Let us Pray,**

**We place these gifts into your hands, O God. Bless them with your transforming grace so that they may become a witness to the resurrection hope and healing that Christ brings into the world. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

**VU 594 O Christian, Love**

O Christian, love your sister and your brother!

Where pity dwells, the peace of God is there;

to worship rightly is to love each other,

each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.

Follow with reverent steps the great example:

Jesus whose holy work was doing good;

so shall the wide earth seem a hallowed temple,

each loving life a psalm of gratitude.

Then shall all shackles fall; the stormy clangour

of wild war-music o’er the earth shall cease;

love shall tread out the baleful fire of anger,

and in its ashes plant the tree of peace.

**Commissioning & Benediction**

**Threefold Amen – VU 967**

**Postlude**