

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH
March 27, 2022
Lent 4



Title: Wisdom of the Ages
Artist: Christi Belcourt
Year: 2014

***Growing and Deepening our Spiritual Lives in an
Affirming and Inclusive community***

Welcome to St. David's United Church

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March 20, 2022

Presiding: Amy Haynes

We gather in faith as a Christ-infused church

(Welcome to worship today. Whether you are worshipping with us today for the first time or you have been here for longer than you can remember, you are welcome to be here and to participate however you feel comfortable. Regardless of your age, stage, gender, sexual identity, or how great or small you feel your faith is we each bring something of ourselves to this sacred space. God welcomes each of us to worship.)

SEED OF MEDITATION

"We have to consciously study how to be tender with each other until it becomes a habit."

-Audre Lorde

PRELUDE "Largo" from Concerto for Two Violins in D minor J. S. Bach

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Love that Never Ceases sings with us songs of Liberation.

Where righteousness flows, God is the current.

Where cries for justice ring out, God is the belltower.

Where healing blooms, God is the sunlight.

Come, let us worship God, our Encourager and our Advocate!

INTROIT

Veni Sancte Spiritus

Taize

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who makes all things new,
new stars, new dust, new life;
take my heart,
every hardened edge and measured beat,
and create something new in me.

I need your newness, God,
the rough parts of me made smooth;
the stagnant, stirred;
the stuck, freed;
the unkind, forgiven.

And then, by the power of your Spirit,
I need to be turned toward Love again. Amen.

OPENING HYMN There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

VU #271

- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy
 like the wideness of the sea;
 there's a kindness in God's justice
 which is more than liberty.

- 2 There is no place where earth's sorrows
 are more felt than up in heaven;
 there is no place where earth's failings
 have such gracious judgement given.

- 3 There is plentiful redemption
 in the blood that Christ has shed;
 there is joy for all the members
 in the sorrows of the Head.

- 4 Troubled souls, why will you scatter
 like a crowd of frightened sheep?
 Foolish hearts, why will you wander
 from a love so true and deep?

- 5 For the love of God is broader
 than the measures of the mind,
 and the heart of the Eternal
 is most wonderfully kind.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

How happy are those whose wrongs are forgiven,
whose sin is no longer on an endless psychic loop!
How happy are those who no longer lie—
to themselves or to anyone else.
When we refuse to admit how we miss the mark,
it eats away at us, little by little,
weakening us in body and soul.

So let's come before God with our prayers of confession.
Let's lay before God the sin that is weighing us down
so that we can be freed from its burdensome prison
and perceive, with abundance, God's mercy and love.

(silent prayers)

**Beloved God,
with the eagerness of a child,
you wait for our coming,
with the urgency of a mother,
you long for our return
with the anxious heart of a father,
your arms ache to hold us.
The disappointment,
the judgment,
the turning away,
that's us, not you.**

**Forgive us and heal us
of everything in us
that recoils from our shared humanity.
You have given us such worth;
help us to take all creation at your valuation
and to know ourselves,
and all your children,
precious and loved.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Mother of Creation, you are our hiding place!
Your unfailing love surrounds us,
and you fill our hearts with songs of joy!
Continue to guide us in the way we should go,
and watch over us,
so that our lives may bring honour to your name. **Amen.**

ANTHEM I Come To Him Sally DeFord

SCRIPTURE Joshua 5:9-12, Psalm 32 VU 759, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

REFLECTION

ANTHEM He Sent His Son Mabel J. Gabbott & Michael F. Moody
/arr.Sally DeFord

PASSING THE PEACE

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

POEM/READING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Reconciling Christ, bless our efforts to bring about reconciliation.

**Give us the strength to persevere without counting the hurts,
and to find within ourselves the capacity to keep on loving.**

Give us the grace to be able to stand in the middle of situations,
and to be a conduit for the deep listening,
which can lead to healing and forgiveness.

Help us to conduct ourselves with dignity,
giving and expecting respect, moving from prayer to action,
and from action back again into prayer.

Grant that we may be so grounded in your love,
that our peace is not threatened if we change our minds,
or come to see a better way to act.

**Comfort, O Fount of Life, those who are sick,
and those who are mourning--whether their grief be
private anguish or one felt by the community.**
(naming those who have requested prayer)

Grant refuge to the prisoner and to those who
have fallen away from their inner light and
the Light of your unending Love. Bring them home,
So that we all may be reconciled to one another,
and held under your wing.

Bless those who are called to reconcile on a large scale –
politicians, world leaders, leaders of business,
and those who stand in the midst of bitter conflict.

**Reconciling Christ, bless us and bless all who engage
in the sacred work of envisioning new wholeness
and bringing people and nations together. Amen.**

THE DISCIPLE'S PRAYER (by enfleshed)

Mother of us all,
who dwells within and beyond,
Sacred is your name.
May your holy vision for collective flourishing
come to fruition among us.

May your dreams of justice, love, compassion, and connection be enfolded on earth.

Provide us today with what we need to be nourished in body, soul, and heart. Forgive us for the harm we cause as we seek to forgive those who have harmed us.

Lead us away from everything that destroys and liberate us from the hands of evil.

For you are the ultimate source of hope.

Your power-with exceeds all power-over.

Your presence incites eternal wonder.

All praise to you, our comfort and strength.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A New Creed

We are not alone; we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN

Let All Things Now Living

VU #242

- 1 Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night;
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into Light.

- 2 By law God enforces, the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise:
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

God's Time Is The Best - Sinfonia to Cantata No.106

J.S. Bach/arr. Henderson

*The flowers in the sanctuary today are donated by
Marjorie Chrapko and family in remembrance of her son
Randy who passed away in 1995.*

**THANKS TO THOSE ASSISTING WITH OUR SUNDAY
WORSHIP EXPERIENCE**

Scripture Reader.....Betty Smith
 Music..... Angel Voices
 Guest Musicians.....Tokie and Maya Brideau-violin
 Accompanist.....Colleen Charter
 PSALT & Tech Team
 Sacred Service Team

COVER ART

Title: Wisdom of the Ages

Artist: Christi Belcourt

Year: 2014

Excerpt of Artist's Statement:

"Globally, we live in a time of great upheaval. The state of the world is in crisis. We are witness to the unbearable suffering of species, including humans. Much of this we do to ourselves. It is possible for the planet to return to a state of well-being, but it requires a radical change in our thinking. It requires a willingness to be open to the idea that perhaps human beings have got it all wrong.

All species, the lands, the waters are one beating organism that pulses like a heart. We are all a part of a whole. The animals and plants, lands and waters, are our relatives each with as much right to exist as we have. When we see ourselves as separate from each other and think of other species, the waters and the planet itself as objects that can be owned, dominated or subjugated, we lose connection with our humanity and we create imbalance on the earth. This is what we are witnessing around us."

Let us all be reconciled. A.