

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH

SUNDAY JANUARY 9, 2022

Growing and Deepening our Spiritual Lives in an Affirming and Inclusive Community

“Re-NEW-al”

Presiding – Debra Charnuski

SEED OF MEDITATION

Transitions are a part of life, allowing for perpetual renewal. When you experience the end of one chapter, allow yourself to feel the emotions of loss and rebirth. A bud gives way to a new flower, which surrenders to the fruit, which gives rise to a seed, which yields a new sprout. Even as you ride the roller coaster, embrace the centered internal reference of your faith.

David Simon

PRELUDE *Improvisation - Andante*

GREETINGS

Welcome to the second week of a new year - 2022. Let's begin the New Year by thanking God for allowing us to be alive, as it is a gift from our Creator; with hope and faith we can make ourselves and this world better.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

There are two ways of spreading light ~ To be the Candle ...OR...the Mirror that reflects it.

Edith Wharton

We light the Affirming Candle: May this candle remind us to respect and defend all the wondrous diversity we and all people are created in. We light the Right Relations Candle to honour the land we live on and the people we live beside, the traditional territory of Treaty 7 and Métis 3 peoples. We light the Christ Candle: May this candle remind us that the light of Christ is with us always; in the world, in the universe and in us.

FOCUSING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

Come with me on a journey in faith. Bring your hopes and visions of a new possibility, for God's work among us is just beginning.

We are called into a future yet unnamed. We hear the call of Jesus and venture forward, leaving behind our comfort zones and certainties.

But as we travel light, in the spirit of faith and expectation, we are led by the One who brings to light God's dreams for us and for the world.

May we be witnesses to God's new tomorrow, and go with confidence, knowing that we never travel alone.

OPENING PRAYER

God of all time, help us enter the New Year quietly,
thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others,
mindful that our steps make an impact
and our words carry power.

May we walk gently.

May we speak only after we have listened well.

Creator of all life,

help us enter the New Year reverently,

aware that you have endowed

every creature and plant, every person and habitat
with beauty and purpose.

May we regard the world with tenderness.

May we honor rather than destroy.

Redeemer of all souls,

help us enter the New Year joyfully,

willing to laugh and dance and dream,

remembering our many gifts with thanks

and looking forward to blessings yet to come.

May we welcome your lavish love.

In this new year, may the grace and peace of Christ bless us now and in the days ahead.

Amen.

- Vinita Hampton Wright

Hymn: Morning Has Broken VU #409

Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world.

Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light, Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day

READINGS

First Reading

Romans 12: 2 & 10-18 (NIV)

Do not conform or copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Second Reading

Isaiah 40:28-31 (NIV)

Do you not know?
Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.
He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.

Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

Contemporary Words from Thomas Merton

There is in us an instinct for newness, for renewal, for a liberation of creative power. We seek to awaken in ourselves a force which really changes our lives from within. And yet the same instinct tells us that this change is a recovery of that which is deepest, most original, most personal in ourselves. To be born again is not to become somebody else, but to become ourselves.

Anthem The Old Hundreth Psalm Tune Ralph Vaughan Williams
Sing along at home, you will know this tune!

Verse 1: All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, His praise forthtell,
Come ye before him, and rejoice.

Verse 2: The Lord, ye know, is God indeed,
Without our aid He did us make;
We are his folk, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.

Verses 3 & 4: choir only

Verse 5: To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
The God whom heaven and earth adore,
From all and from the angel host
Be praise and glory evermore.

REFLECTION: Happy “Re-NEW-al”

PRAYERS

Prayer for Renewal (Responsive – congregation response in bold)

Lord,
I've been feeling a bit empty and far from you.

I'm weary from the struggle.

Renew my spirit, O Lord.

May I be the new wine in new wineskins.

May I be the fresh page upon which you write.

I seek a more spacious place in my walk with you.

Break down the old in me, the hardness, and build up the new in you.

**Bring me to a deeper place of rest, where your power and Spirit
make room so I can breathe.**

2021 was a *very* hard year, and no one knows what this new year will
bring.

I am anxious and afraid.

Help me learn how to put my faith in you.

So that I may go forth into the new year with a strong heart.

Allow me to see possibilities instead of problems.

Plant in me a hopeful and love-filled heart.

Fill me with courage to accept whatever may come my way.

I'm not there yet, Lord, but I want to go.

Take me there with you. Renew me. Set me free.

In Jesus name, we pray.

Amen.

Prayers of the People

Let us take a silent minute to express our own personal prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING and COMMISSIONING

HYMN In The Bulb There Is A Flower – VU #703

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.

Benediction

God of Love,
You are with us through every
transition and change.
As we enter into this new year
with excitement and even some anxiety,
we recall your deep compassion,
presence, and abounding love.
We thank you for the gifts, talents
and skills with which you have blessed us.
We thank you for the experiences
That have brought us to this moment.
We thank you for the work of others that
Gives breadth and depth to our own work.

Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing
with you and supporting one another.
We ask this in your Holy Name.

Amen.

Joseph Shadle

Sending Out “Dance with the Spirit” – Jim Strathdee **MV #156**

Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life abornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

(Sing 3 times)

POSTLUDE *Improvisation - Scherzo*