

# First United Church

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November 13, 2022

10:30 a.m.



Purpose: Building Relationships,  
Living God's Transforming Love.

*Becoming ourselves in a broken-hearted world: how to maintain  
mental and spiritual health amidst a search for identity.*

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*Becoming ourselves in a broken-hearted world: how to maintain  
mental and spiritual health amidst a search for identity.*

- Is a request to stand in body or in spirit

**Prelude** 3 Chorale preludes

J. S. Bach

"Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten" BWV 690 (If you will trust in God to guide you)

"Jesu, meine Freude" BWV 610 (Jesus, priceless treasure)

"Ich ruf' zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ" BWV 639 (I cry to you, Lord Jesus Christ)

*Listening as we Gather*

**Acknowledgement of the Land**

**Welcome and Opportunities for Ministry and Fellowship**

**Introit** God Welcomes All

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;

God's love is strong and it never ends.

- Procession of the Light and Word
- **Call to Worship**
  - One: We gather in the presence of the One who abandons no one.
  - All: Come Holy Spirit, our advocate and comforter.**
  - One: All are welcome in this sacred place, made holy through your presence with us.
  - All: Open our hearts and minds this day, guide us into a loving relationship with all your children.**
  - One: We gather as God's beloved people, leaving no one outside.
  - All: Spark us with a word of life and radical belonging— a message that we share with others as we seek to live out**

## ***Christ's love.***

One: We call on the name of God, who  
creates, redeems, and sustains us.

**All: Amen.**

(Rev. Amy Petré Hill)

### • **Opening Hymn**      Let Us Build a House

MV 1

- 1      Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,  
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
        All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
- 2      Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:  
        All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
- 3      Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;  
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:  
        All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
- 4      Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:  
        All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
- 5      Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
        All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

### • **Prayer of Approach**

(Sherry Coman)

# *Listening For God's Word*

**Responsive Psalm:** Psalm 139: 1-18 VU 861 (Reader: Shirley Schweitzer)

Sung Response: God, you have searched me, you know me through and through  
O God, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.

**You discern my path and the places I rest;  
you are familiar with all my ways.**

Before a word is on my tongue,  
you know it, O God, completely.

You guard me from behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.

**It is beyond my knowledge; it is a mystery;  
I cannot fathom it. R**

Where can I escape from your spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

**If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I lie down in the grave, you are even there.**

If I take wing with the dawn

and alight at the sea's farthest limits,

**there also your hand will be guiding me  
your powerful hand holding me fast.**

If I say, 'Let the darkness cover me

and my day be turned to night,'

even darkness is not dark to you:

**the night is as bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light to you. R**

It was you who formed my inward parts;

you fashioned me in my mother's womb.

**I praise you, for I am fearfully, wonderfully made.**

**Wondrous are your works; that I know very well.**

My frame was not hidden from you

when I was being fashioned in secret,

intricately woven in the mystery of clay.

**Your eyes saw my substance taking shape;  
in your book my every day was recorded;  
all my days were fashioned,  
even before they came to be. R**

How deep your designs are to me, O God!  
How great their number!

**I try to count them but they are more than the sand.  
I come to the end - I am still with you.**

Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
**test me and know my thoughts.**

Watch closely, lest I follow a path of error  
**and guide me in the everlasting way. R**

### **The Gospel:**

- Gospel Reading: John 11:31-34 Reader: (Shirley Schweitzer)

**One:** This is the Gospel of Jesus the Christ.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Ministry of Music:** Wings of the Dawn (Psalm 139) Linda A. Spencer

**Sermon** Deacon Sherry Coman, Rev. Dr. Kristine Lund and Dr. Daniel Rzondzinski

### • **Hymn** For All the Children

1. LEADER: God, we gather as your people to raise our song above,  
and we dare to claim the promise of Your love,  
though the day may not yet be here, we trust it soon will be,  
when your children will be free.

Refrain: ALL:O, may our hearts and minds be opened,  
fling the church doors open wide.  
May there be room enough for ev'ry-one inside.  
For in God there is a welcome, in God we all belong.  
May that welcome be our song.

2. LEADER and CHOIR: Oh, we sing for all the children, that one day they be  
free;  
and we sing for generations yet to be,  
that they never have a reason to doubt that they are blest.  
May they, in Your love find rest.

Refrain: ALL:O, may our hearts and minds be opened,  
fling the church doors open wide.  
May there be room enough for ev'ry-one inside.  
For in God there is a welcome, in God we all belong.

May that welcome be our song.

3. ALL: Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and shame so afraid of who they are and whom they love.  
May the message now be banished that Your love is for the few,  
may their faith in You renew.

Refrain: O, may our hearts and minds be opened,  
fling the church doors open wide.  
May there be room enough for ev'ry-one inside.  
For in God there is a welcome, in God we all belong.  
May that welcome be our song.

4. God, we're working for the future when children far and wide can live their lives with dignity and pride.  
As they grow in strength and stature,  
May they join us hand in hand, as against all here we stand.

Refrain: O, may our hearts and minds be opened,  
fling the church doors open wide.  
May there be room enough for ev'ry-one inside.  
For in God there is a welcome, in God we all belong.  
May that welcome be our song.

## *Responding to God's Word*

**Time of Offering**

(Nancy Lennox)

**Prayer of Dedication**

ALL: ***Let us Pray:***  
***God of abundance,***  
***We thank you for your blessings.***  
***We ask that you accept our humble gifts,***  
**Through Jesus Christ,**  
**AMEN**

**Call to Prayer**

Senzeni Na?

MV 66

## Prayers of Confession, Intercession, and Thanksgiving

(Sherry Coman)

*Let us pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples and friends. We invite you pray in the language or version of your choice. Please feel free to pray out loud.*

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father (and Mother), who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kin(g)dom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,  
for thine is the kin(g)dom, the power and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen

### • Sending Hymn Praise with Joy the World's Creator

VU 312

- 1 Praise with joy the world's Creator,  
God of justice, love, and peace,  
source and end of human knowledge,  
God whose grace shall never cease.  
Celebrate the Maker's glory,  
power to rescue and release.
- 2 Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry,  
frees the captive, finds the lost,  
heals the sick, upsets religion,  
fearless both of fate and cost.  
Celebrate Christ's constant presence:  
friend and stranger, guest and host.
- 3 Praise the Spirit sent among us,  
liberating truth from pride,  
forging bonds where race or gender,  
age or nation dare divide.  
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure:  
foolishness none dare deride.

4 Praise the Maker, Christ, and Spirit,  
one God in community,  
calling Christians to embody  
oneness and diversity.  
This the world shall see reflected:  
God is One and One in Three.

**Blessing and Benediction:**

(Kristine Lund)

One: May the solitary embrace of God envelop us  
And return to us our lost or stolen dignities;  
May the grace of Jesus liberate us, heal us,  
Restore us, put us on our feet, and propel us  
beyond all limitations and all forms of marginalization.  
And may the constant presence of the divine Spirit animate us  
To walk the paths of a shared life,  
Testifying to one that is possible.

Adapted from Claudio Carvalhaes, *Liturgies from Below*, p 54

**Sung Benediction:** When You walk from Here  
When you walk from here, when you walk from here,  
walk with justice, walk with mercy, and with God's humble care.

**Recession of the Light and Word**

**Postlude:** Fugue in G minor, BWV 578 J.S.Bach



# Guest Biographies

## Guest Biographies

### Sherry Coman

Associate Professional Faculty; Director, [Centre for Spirituality and Media](#)

Sherry teaches courses in film, media and spirituality, and in gender justice. An ordained deacon in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, she is also a writer, educator and story editor with more than 30 years experience in theatre and film. Sherry has worked as a development consultant with writers and artists in film, fiction and digital media.

In the last decade Sherry has pursued theology and biblical studies with a special interest in the Dead Sea Scrolls. A graduate of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary and Regis College, Toronto School of Theology, Sherry is currently a sessional lecturer in film and theology at the University of Toronto and Martin Luther University College. Sherry authors spiritual devotionals for the online ministry [Lutherans Connect](#).

### Debbie Lou Ludolph

Dean of Keffer Chapel; Director, Kanata Centre for Worship and Global Song; Instructor, Practical Theology. She states: "I successfully defended my doctoral dissertation — as part of Martin Luther University College's PhD in Human Relationships program, field of Pastoral Leadership — in January 2021. I received my Master of Arts in Theology degree from Luther in 2009, when the school was known as Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, and my bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from Wilfrid Laurier University in 1982. Prior to working full-time at Luther, I performed in the musical theatre industry; taught vocal pedagogy, musical skills and voice at Laurier and in the community; and led music and worship at conferences and retreats. In addition to teaching, I co-ordinate worship in Luther's Keffer Memorial Chapel."

### Kristine Lund

Principal-Dean; Professor, Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy, Martin Luther University College

Kristine's PhD dissertation title was, "The Pastoral Counselling Students' Experience Of Learning To Be Present With Their Clients." Kristine also holds MDiv and BSc degrees.

Prior to coming to Martin Luther University College (formerly Waterloo Lutheran Seminary) Kristine was the program co-ordinator for the Master of Arts in Pastoral Psychology and Psychotherapy at St. Stephen's College in Edmonton, AB (1998-2005) while conducting a private psychotherapy practice and supervised pastoral counselling students.

Kristine is an ordained Lutheran pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and a registered psychotherapist (RP) with the College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario (CRPO), and is certified as a specialist and teaching supervisor in pastoral counselling education with the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care (CASC).

### Daniel Rzondzinski

A native of Argentina, Daniel has been a clinical social worker and psychotherapist for more than 33 years in Argentina and Canada. Before coming to Canada he taught social sciences at John F. Kennedy University and the University of Belgrano in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Daniel holds several degrees, including a Master of Social Work and a PhD.

Daniel is a registered social worker and has worked in Spiritual Integrated Psychotherapy within several faith traditions

In addition to his faculty duties, Daniel is a clinical supervisor at The Delton Glebe Counselling Centre.