

First United Church

February 5, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Black History Month



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

16 William Street West,
Waterloo ON N2L 1J3

Office: 519-745-8487 x 201

Email: office@firstunitedchurch.ca

Web Site: www.firstunitedchurch.ca

Chair of the Board: firstunitedboardchair@gmail.com

- Is a request to stand in body or in spirit

Prelude 3 Chorale Preludes on "Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier"

BWV 706, 730, 731

J. S. Bach

(VU 500: Blessed Jesus, at your word, we have come again to hear you.)

Listening as we Gather

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

One: We begin our service with gratitude and respect as we remember together that this land, this planet is sacred. We are on holy ground.

All: Earth is our only home, and we are related to it as part of the web of life.

One: We lament that we have not honoured our deep relationship with the earth. The climate crisis is one result of our overconsumption and wastefulness. We commit to learning and practicing better care for the earth.

For thousands of years, Indigenous people have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and their spirituality. We are gathered on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Chonnoton, and Anishinaabe and acknowledge their stewardship of the land throughout the ages. We lament that we have not honoured their ways, nor their spirituality and we all live with the consequences.

All: We seek to live into right relationship with all Indigenous people with whom we share the land. We commit to listening to and respecting their wisdom.

One: We aspire to create a safer space for everyone. We welcome you and the gifts you bring a part of your sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, race, cultural background or abilities.

Opportunities for Ministry and Fellowship

- **Introit** Seek Ye First

VU 356

Lighting of the Christ Candle and procession of the Word

- **Call to Worship**

One: God said, "Let there be light."

All: And there was light.

One: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

All: And the light shone in a place of deep shadows and was not overcome.

One: Jesus said, "You are the light of the world ... let your light shine."

All: Together, our light shines. Thanks be to God.

- **Opening Hymn** Be Thou My Vision

VU 642

Prayer of Approach

Listening For God's Word

A Story for the Young at Heart

Readings from Our Tradition

Isaiah 58: 1-12

(Reader: Lynne Blake-Dickson)

One: Herein is wisdom.

All: Thanks be to God.

- **Hymn** God Weeps

MV 78

Responsive Psalm 112: 1-9,

page 834

Matthew 5: 13-20

One: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Ministry of Music: Shine Your Light
Gallery Choir; Kate Markwart, soloist

Greg Gilpin

Sermon: Bushel Baskets and Lampstands

Responding to God's Word

Time of Offering

Offertory Oh Sing to the Lord Brazilian folk song; arr. Johannes M. Michel

• **Doxology** Grant Us, God, the Grace VU 540

Prayer of Dedication:

All: These are our gifts of thanksgiving Bountiful Creator. They are one way in which we hope that your light shines through us. Send our Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts that working together we and they may become a floodlight of your love. Amen

Call to Prayer Come, Bring Your Burdens to God

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

• **Sending Hymn** Go Make a Difference MV 209

Sending Forth and Benediction

• **Benediction Response** Amen, Amen, Hallelujah, Amen VU 974

Recession of the Light and Word

Postlude: This Little Light of Mine arr. Mark Hayes