

# First United Church

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February 12, 2023

10:30 a.m.

**Sixth 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](mailto:office@firstunitedchurch.ca)

Web Site: [www.firstunitedchurch.ca](http://www.firstunitedchurch.ca)

Chair of the Board: [firstunitedboardchair@gmail.com](mailto:firstunitedboardchair@gmail.com)

- Is a request to stand in body or in spirit

Prelude      Prière à Notre-Dame from *Suite Gothique*

L. Boëllmann

## *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**      Listen, God is Calling

MV 97

### **Lighting of the Christ Candle and procession of the Word**

- **Call to Worship**

**One:** Choose life!

**All:** This is a complete invitation: Choose life!

**One:** Choose life!

**All:** This is the complete covenant: Choose life!

**One:** Choose life!

**All:** This is a complete prayer: Choose life!

Today, we have chosen again. Today, we choose life!

- **Opening Hymn** Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

VU 232

**Prayer of Approach**

## *Listening For God's Word*

**A Story for the Young at Heart**

**Readings from Our Tradition**

**Deuteronomy 30: 15-20**

(Reader: Joanne MacPhail)

- **Responsive Psalm 119:1-8**

**VU pg. 838 Part One**

**One:** Herein is wisdom.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Matthew 5: 21-37**

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

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

**Ministry of Music:** I Will Sing with the Spirit  
Gallery choir

John Rutter

**Sermon:** Choose Life

## *Responding to God's Word*

### Time of Offering

**Offertory**      A Simple Song      L. Bernstein  
                         Hannah Haworth, soloist

- **Dedication of Offering**      Grant Us, God, The  
                         Grace      VU 540

### Prayer of Dedication:

**All: Today, we would choose life, Bountiful Creator. From the abundance you have given we offer our time, talent, and treasure in thanksgiving to you. Send your Spirit upon us and these gifts that working together those who need them most may experience the full life you intend for all of your creation. We pray in the name of the One we came proclaiming your abundant life to all the world. Amen**

**Call to Prayer**      Take Time to Be Holy, (verse 1)      VU 672

### Prayers of the People

#### The Lord's Prayer

- **Sending Hymn**      I Feel the Winds of God      VU 625

### Sending Forth and Benediction

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

### Recession of the Light and Word

**Postlude:**      Menuet from *Suite Gothique*      L. Boëllmann