CENTRAL SAANICH UNITED CHURCH

Worship: Rev. Bob Gilbert
Music Director: Amy Nold
Secretary: Tara Houle

Office Hours: 10 am to 2 pm, Wednesdays & Thursdays
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Central Saanich United Church
Central Saanich United Church Online Worship

Central Saanich United Church
United Church of Canada
Pride Sunday
June 25, 2023

Scripture Reader: Julie Thacker
Greeters: Julie Thacker & Laura Lyn Helton

WE GATHER

Prelude
Welcome, Celebrations, Announcements
Lighting the Christ Candle

Hymn: **Let Us Build A House** **MV 1**
(vs. 1,2,4,5)

Lighting the Pride Candle:

We light this flame
to ignite our hearts and minds—
the spark of knowledge that enlightens,
the shimmering hope that burns,
the blazing love that engulfs our actions,
the bonfire of our commitment.

We light this flame for those
who celebrate themselves
who fear
who hope
who persevere
who stand on the side of love for all.

We light this flame
for those who have been ridiculed,
that they may find peace;
for those who have fought to marry,
that they may celebrate;
for those who live in uncertainty in the world,
that they may have hope.

We light this flame
to renew our commitment
that no one shall ever again
suffer for the right to love.

We light this flame
to celebrate our kaleidoscope of diversity:
working, loving, and living on the side of love.
For this, we light this flame.

A Moment for Pride

Lighting of the Red Candle

Call To Worship:
We gather to worship our loving God in whose image we are made.
We celebrate, with pride, who we are, as we are, part of God's good creation.
In our common humanity we are bound together in caring community.
In our wondrous diversity we delight in the imaginative creation of God.
May all of us gathered here today experience God's loving presence flowing in and among and through us as we share this time of worship together.

Opening Prayer:
God of brilliant sunsets and shining rainbows,
God of golden daffodils and glowing autumn leaves,
God of all the blues of sunlit seas,
God of all the greens in bush and field,
in rivers and oceans and lakes,
in rough stones on a beach
and polished jewels in a showcase.
God of people, brown and amber, pink and ebony,
artistic and athletic, practical and visionary,
compassionate and laughter-bringing.
God who colours us a world of variety, we thank you.
We thank you that you have made each of us unique,
that you call us to contribute our special colours to the life around us.

We come to you in thanksgiving and worship.
Amen.
(from Gaetz Memorial United Church, Nov. 19, 2017 Worship Service)

Lighting of the Orange Candle

Children's Time

Ringing the Tone Bell (invitation to a moment of quiet)

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD

Special Music

From our Scriptures: Acts 15:4-8
John 15:12-14, 17-19
From the World Around Us: "Gay Christian" by Jonny Masters

Lighting of the Yellow Candle

Reflection: Julie Thacker

Lighting of the Green Candle

Sung Response: "Deep in Our Hearts" MV 154 (v. 1)

Reflection: Pat Gunton

Lighting of the Blue Candle

Sung Response: "Deep in Our Hearts" MV 154 (v. 2)

Reflection: Bob Gilbert

Lighting of the Purple Candle

Sung Response: “Deep in Our Hearts” MV 154 (v. 3)

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

Hymn: **Open My Eyes, That I May See** **VU 371**

Offering
Invitation
What Can I Do? **MV 191**
Dedication of the Gifts

We pray…
Hymn: **Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying** **VU 400**

Prayers of the People
The Lord’s Prayer

Hymn: **Draw the Circle Wide** **MV 145**

Commissioning & Benediction
Let us go from here to proclaim the good news:
God takes on flesh in the strange and surprising.
Love liberates from the margins.
Together, we have what we need to resist evil and oppression.
With a renewed commitment to solidarity with God and all LGBTQ+ persons and Two-Spirit people, may the God: Creator, Christ, and Spirit lead us from this place with peace.
Amen.

Going Forth: **Spirit of Life** **VU 381**
Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Annual Picnic and Affirming Anniversary Celebration will immediately follow today's service at Jim Rondeau and Dennis Tam's home. Many thanks to Jim and Dennis for opening their home to us once again and we hope to see you there!

Hello everyone,

I will be taking 3 weeks vacation in July and two weeks in August on the following dates:

July 3 - 24 (returning Tuesday, July 25)
August 7 - 21 (returning Tuesday, August 22)

Rev. Wilda Cottam will provide urgent/emergency pastoral care in July while I'm away.

Wilda can be reached at email: cottam5@shaw.ca
phone: 250-361-4806

Nancy will also provide urgent/emergency pastoral care in August while I'm away.

Nancy can be reached at email: nancy.ohiggins@gmail.com
phone: 250-240-8751

May each and every one of you enjoy the blessings of the summer season!

Rev. Bob

- This year's Pastoral Charge is recognized for the following achievements. The UCW contributed $3,000 for Mission & Service, and our congregation raised $7,887. Many thanks, and blessings to you all for your generous contributions!

Our Vision Statement

"Deepening and demonstrating our faith in Jesus Christ by partnering in and with the community of Central Saanich and beyond. We are a progressive Christian community affirming that all people are sacred in God's eyes. We are committed to lovingly create a community where all people are welcomed to fully participate in all aspects of ministry, our life together and celebrated, regardless of sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, race, age, various abilities & disabilities, spiritual beliefs, and ethnic or cultural background. We will continue to live out diversity and social justice through our actions".

Please refer to our website for Upcoming Events in our Community

www.centralsaanichunited.ca

OR

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