First United Church

August 13, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost



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

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Chair of the Board: <u>firstunitedboardchair@gmail.com</u> Bulletin Art: "Way of Love" by Sébastien Gaborit Is a request to stand in body or in spirit

Prelude Variations on "The Old Hundredth": Var. 1-7 Denis Bédard

Listening as we Gather

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

One: Let us pause for a moment and consider our role in reconciliation.

All: First United Church resides on treaty lands known as the Haldimand Tract, which straddle either side of the Grand River, from Lake Erie all the way to north of Shelburne, and upon the traditional territory of Attawandaron, Anishinaabe, and Haudenosaunee people. We recognize this gathering place where we worship and serve is home to many past, present, and future First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. May our honouring of the land and worship of Creator this day plant a seed that will grow into relationships of justice and healing between settlers and Indigenous peoples in our midst.

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

Opportunities for Ministry and Fellowship

 Introit God Welcomes all God welcomes all, strangers and friends, God's love is strong and it never ends.

Lighting of the Christ Candle and procession of the Word

Call to Worship

ONE: Let us rejoice, for a new day is born, and we are newly alive to enjoy it.

ALL: We celebrate the beauty of creation and the wonder of human family.

ONE: We remember those whose love has shaped our lives and those whose struggles for justice have been unsleeping in spite of opposition.

ALL: We gather to worship God, to share prayers and gifts, to pledge ourselves to God's work in the world.

ONE: May God bless us, so that what we do in this time together may be honest, sacred, and filled with hope.

Maren C. Tirabassi, Touch Holiness

Opening Hymn Sing Your Praise to God Eternal

VU 244

Prayer of Approach

ONE: Gracious God, we come to you because you have first come to us.

ALL: We know you because you have revealed yourself.

ONE: Give us in this morning hour of worship a new sense of your Spirit

breathing through us.

ALL: Lift our hearts with the wings of song, heal our souls with the balm of prayer, enliven our minds with the words of scripture and interpretation, and newly enable us to dedicate our strength, our substance, and our service to your work in the world. Amen.

Maren C. Tirabassi, Touch Holiness

Listening For God's Word

• Children's Hymn: This Is the Day (vs 1) VU 412

A Story for the Young at Heart

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 45: 1-8 (Reader: Nancy Lennox)

One: Herein Lies Wisdom.

All: Thanks Be To God.

Responsive Psalm 31 VU 758

Luke 23: 44-46

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ. **All: Praise to Christ, the Word.**

Ministry of Music: Wade in the Water Spiritual, arr. M. Hayes

Nathan Martin - Soloist

Reflection: Learning in the Dark Rev. Hoeun Lee

• **Hymn** God in the Darkness MV 17

Responding to God's Word

Time of Offering

Offertory Holy Darkness

Dan Schutte

Nathan Martin, - Soloist

• **Dedication of Offering** What Can I Do

MV 191

Prayer of Dedication:

ALL: Take these gifts, Loving God, and receive them as treasures of our commitment to you; take our lives and transform them into your healing power. May we be empowered to bring wholeness to those who need your healing touch. Bless our givings and our actions, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Call to Prayer Don't Be Afraid

MV 90

Prayers of the People

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 Spirit, Open My Heart

MV 79

Sending Forth and Benediction

Benediction Response Amen, Amen, Hallelujah, Amen VU 974

Recession of the Light and Word

Postlude: Variations on "The Old Hundredth": Var. 8-9 Denis Bédard