

First United Church

September 3, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



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

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Bulletin Art: Mosaic of Moses at the Burning Bush in the Monastery Church

- Is a request to stand in body or in spirit

Prelude Jazz Hymns

Mark Hayes

Wayfaring Stranger; Children's Song Medley; What a Friend We have in Jesus

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** Soil of God, You and I

MV 174

Lighting of the Christ Candle and procession of the Word

- **Call to Worship**

One: Servants of God, come in from the fields and homes and workplaces, where you labour all week.

All: We have laid down our tools and set aside our toil.

One: Servants of God, come into this holy place and time, ready for worship.

All: We come ready to meet God, to give thanks, and to rest.

One: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

Kate Crawford, Huron Shores U.C., Grand Bend, Ont.

- **Opening Hymn** Praise God for This Holy Ground

MV 42

Prayer of Approach

One: God of the exiled, you are at home everywhere and nowhere.

All: Make your home in us this day.

One: Grant us the courage to wrestle with what we do not understand.

All: Open our hearts to respond with thoughtful and lasting change.

One: Teach us patience and respect as we care for others and ourselves.

All: Mark us with your love that we might live as signs of your kin-dom come.

Amen.

Wetaskiwin Writers, Grace Lutheran Church and First U.C., Wetaskiwin, Alta

Listening For God's Word

- **Children's Hymn:** Moses and the burning bush

Tune: Mulberry bush

A Story for the Young at Heart

Scripture Readings

Exodus 3:1-15

(Reader **Paul Miller**)

One: Herein Lies Wisdom.

All: Thanks Be To God.

Responsive Psalm 105, parts 1 & 3

VU page 828-829

Matthew 16:21-28

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

All: Praise to Christ, the Word.

Ministry of Music: For Everyone Born
Autumn Debassige, soloist

Brian Mann, arr. T. Trenney

Reflection: The Place Where You Stand is Holy Ground

Rev. Hoeun Lee

- **Hymn** As a Fire is Meant for Burning

VU 578

Responding to God's Word

Time of Offering

Offertory Give Me Jesus
Autumn Debassige

Spiritual, arr. David Cherwien

- **Dedication of Offering** We Give You But Your Own

VU 542

Prayer of Dedication:

All: Here is the work of our hands. Here is the work of our hearts. Here is the love of our hearts. Here is our desire to make a better world. Bless our offering and send your spirit upon it so that our gifts may join the gifts of all your church to help your kin(g)dom come. Amen.

Barbara Johns, Queenswood U.C., Orleans, Ont.

Call to Prayer God Says, (verses 1 & 2)

MV 172

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** I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

VU 509

Sending Forth and Benediction

- **Benediction Response** Amen, Amen, Hallelujah, Amen

VU 974

Recession of the Light and Word

Postlude: Trumpet Tune m F

Martha Sobaje