

First United Church

September 17, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Purpose: Building Relationships,



Living God's Transforming Love.

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Bulletin Art: The Songs of Joy, c. 1896-1902, by James Jacques Joseph Tissot.
Courtesy of the Jewish Museum, New York.

- Is a request to stand in body or in spirit

Prelude Andantino & 4 Variations on “Lasst uns erfreuen”

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: We come rejoicing in God's creation.

All: **God is good. The fruit-laden trees proclaim the wonder of God.**

One: We come rejoicing in God's creation.

All: **God is good. The autumn rain declares the nurture of God.**

One: We come rejoicing in God's creation.

All: **God is good. The mountains and hills reflect our awesome God.**

One: We come rejoicing in God's creation.

All: **God is good. The gathered crops make evident our caring God.**

David Sparks, Summerland B.C.

- **Opening Hymn** All Creatures of Our God and King

VU 217

Prayer of Approach

One: Holy, mysterious Lover of all you have made,

All: you call us to become your people:

One: to remember ancient stories, to love our neighbours, to sing and praise your name.

All: In our prayers and in our silence, in our songs and in our laughter, in our tears and in our wonder,

One: help us to know that you are always with us and among us.

All: As we remember the terror of the past,

One: As we face the horror of today's disasters,

All: give us the courage and the compassion to live in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Peter Bankson and Deborah Sokolove

Listening For God's Word

- **Children's Hymn:** If Our God Had Simply Saved Us (vs 1-4 + 15) VU 131

Children's Time

Refrain from Miriam's Song

Scripture Readings

Exodus 14:19-31, 15:20-21

(Reader Douglas Facey)

One: Herein Lies Wisdom.

All: Thanks Be To God.

Responsive Reading: Song of the Sea

VU 876

Ministry of Music- Gallery Choir: God is Our Refuge and Strength Allen Pote

Reflection: The Prophet Miriam's Song

Rev. Hoeun Lee

- **Hymn** Miriam's Song
Led by Hannah Haworth

by Debbie Friedman

S
Responding to God's Word

Time of Offering
Offertory

Mercy Still
Hannah Haworth, soloist

Heather Sorenson

- **Dedication of Offering** We Give You But Your Own VU 542

Prayer of Dedication:

All: Bless the gifts we offer, O God, shaping them to bring life, beauty, and colour to the greys of life, rooting them in movements for justice and peace, branching them throughout the world in loving partnership, invigorating them by the rainbow of our sharing and caring. Amen.

Gord Dunbar, Kincardine P.C. Kincardine, Ont.

Call to Prayer Take, O Take Me as I am

MV 85

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** Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah VU 651

Sending Forth and Benediction

- **Benediction Response** Sing Amen VU 431

Recession of the Light and Word

Postlude: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Paul Manz