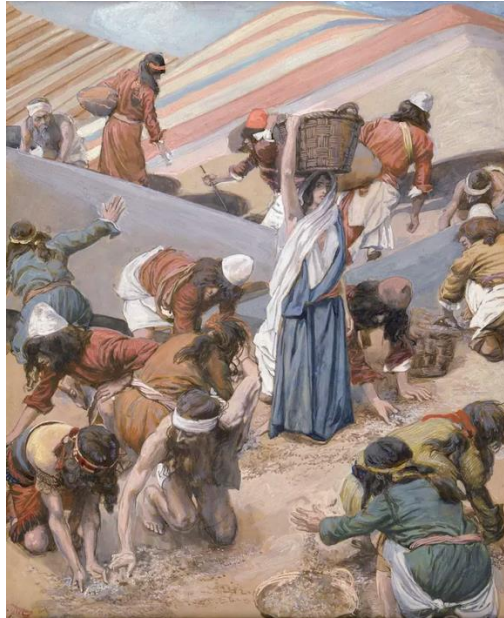


First United Church

September 24, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



bulletin art: **James Tissot, "The gathering of the manna" (1899)**

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

Web Site: www.firstunitedchurch.ca

Chair of the Board: firstunitedboardchair@gmail.com

- **Is a request to stand in body or in spirit**

Prelude Morning Has Broken

Joseph M. Martin

Listening as we Gather

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Rick Heemskerk

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** Draw the Circle Wide (refrain only)

MV 145

Lighting of the Christ Candle and procession of the Word

- **Call to Worship**

One: In the presence of Creator, we gather:

All: People carrying burdens we may not know about looking for comfort; folks needing their spirits refreshed.

One: We draw together hoping for that touch that will enliven us, longing to be embraced in arms of love and understanding.

All: Help us to put aside our differences and see the earth as you see it, boundary-free.

One: You call us all: babies, toddlers on unsteady feet, school-age children with curious minds, teens with questing spirits, full of youthful confidence one moment and like frightened children the next.

All: We are called, as adults trying to take good paths watching out for the next generations, and those easing into their winter years passing on our teachings.

One: We are all kin in this meeting place whether we gather in person or through technology, our spirits joining to say **miigwech* for all that we have been blessed with.

All: Thanks be to God for the goodness in our lives. Amen.

Nancy Best, "*All My Relations*"
**miigwech* means "thank you" in Anishinaabemowin, also known as Ojibwa

- **Opening Hymn** Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works VU 308

Prayer of Approach

One: Creator, we give thanks for the knowledge you give to us through all the traditions of the world. Help us to honour the gifts that each tradition offers.

All: We seek to take the path of love.

One: We give thanks for the east, for the sun that rises to begin each new day. We give thanks for new life, for youth. We give thanks for new learning and new experiences.

All: We seek to take the path of love.

One: We give thanks for the south, for the growth of the summertime in our lives, for the teachings to be kind to ourselves and others. Help us, who are elders, love and respect children and youth. Help us to care for the elderly and those who cannot care for themselves.

All: We seek to take the path of love.

One: We give thanks for the west, for the understanding of how to care for the earth. Creator, help us to use this understanding to bring joy and new life to the world.

All: We seek to take the path of love.

One: We give thanks for the north. Help us to receive gifts of wisdom and new perspectives from all peoples. Help us to grow our roots of compassion deeper as we journey.

**All: Together we will take the path of love for ourselves and for each other.
Amen.**

Debbie Hubbard, "The Possibility of New Beginnings"

Song of Lament God Weeps (Verses 1-2)

MV 78

Remembering the Children Prayer

One: God of our Ancestors, who holds the spirits of our grandmothers and grandfathers and the spirits of our grandchildren, Remembering the Children, we now pledge ourselves to speak the Truth, and with our hearts and our souls to act upon the Truth we have heard of the injustices lived, of the sufferings inflicted, of the tears cried, of the misguided intentions imposed, and of the power of prejudice and racism which were allowed to smother the sounds and laughter of the forgotten children.

All: Hear our cries of lament for what was allowed to happen, and for what will never be. In speaking and hearing and acting upon the Truth may we as individuals and as a nation meet the hope of a new beginning.

Great Creator God who desires that all creation live in harmony and peace, Remembering the Children we dare to dream of a Path of Reconciliation where apology from the heart leads to healing of the heart and the chance of restoring the circle, where justice walks with all, where respect leads to true partnership, where the power to change comes from each heart.

All: Hear our prayer of hope, and guide this country of Canada on a new and different path.

Song of Lament God Weeps (Verses 3-4)

MV 78

Listening For God's Word

• **Hymn:** Hey Ney Yana

MV 217

Story for the Young at Heart

Scripture Readings

Exodus 16:2-15

(Reader: Nancy Lennox)

One: Herein Lies Wisdom.

All: Thanks Be To God.

Responsive Reading Psalm 105 (Part 1 only)

VU 828

Ministry of Music: Lauda Anima; Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven
Mark Andrews

Reflection: Manna, what is it?

Rev. Hoeun Lee

• **Hymn** For the Fruit of All Creation

VU 227

Responding to God's Word

Time of Offering

Offertory on the Hymntune LIVERPOOL

Gilbert M. Martin

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

VU 542

Prayer of Dedication:

All: Gracious Creator, source of all blessings and gifts, we come before you with gratitude for the abundance you have bestowed upon us. As we dedicate these offerings, Great Spirit, we also dedicate our hearts and minds to the journey of reconciliation. Empower us to be instruments of your peace, your love, and your justice, as we work together to build a more inclusive, equitable, and compassionate world.

Shane Goldie, "The Sacred Drum"

Call to Prayer Take, O Take Me as I Am

MV 85

Prayers of the People

An Indigenous Lord's Prayer

Great Spirit, our Creator, who is in all places,
Sacred is your name.

May your wisdom guide us,
Your will be done in our lives, as it is throughout Creation.

Provide for us today the nourishment we need,
And forgive us our wrongs, as we forgive those who have wronged us.

Lead us on the path of understanding and respect,
And protect us from ignorance and harm.

For you are the source of all power, beauty, and love,
From generation to generation, forever and always.

Amen.

• **Sending Hymn** Hey Ney Yana

MV 217

Sending Forth and Benediction

● **Benediction Response** Sing Amen

VU 431

Recession of the Light and Word

Postlude: Festival Toccata (abridged)

Percy Fletcher