

First United Church

October 8, 2023

10:30 a.m.

**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Thanksgiving Sunday**



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

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Bulletin Art: Harvest Cornucopia

- Is a request to stand in body or in spirit

Prelude We Gather Together: 3 Thanksgiving hymns Neil Harmon
We Gather Together; From All that Dwell Below the Skies; For the
Beauty of the Earth

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:** Alleluia (Uruguay) MV 52
Alle, alle, alleluia (2X)
Alle, alle, allelu, alle, alleluia! (2X)

Lighting of the Christ Candle and procession of the Word

- **Call to Worship**

One: With our hearts overflowing with thankfulness, we are called to gather and praise you, God.

All: We bring the bounty of your creation.

One: We gather here to thank you for the fruits you have given us in abundance. (fruit bowl)

All: We bring the bounty of your creation.

One: We gather here thankful that you have given us water in abundance. (water in clear pitcher)

All: We bring the bounty of your creation.

One: We gather here to thank you for the food you have given us in abundance (loaf of bread)

All: We bring the bounty of your creation.

One: We gather to thank you for the trees and flowers that beautify our world. (bouquet of flowers and branches)

All: We bring the bounty of your creation.

One: We gather to thank you for the talents that you have developed in us. (music sheets)

All: We bring the bounty of your creation.

One: We gather to thank, worship, and praise you for all we have received in abundance.

Mary Grant, Forest Hill U.C., Fredericton, N.B.

- **Opening Hymn** Come, You Thankful People, Come

VU 516

Prayer of Approach

One: Creator of all, you fill us with good things.

All: joy, peace, grace, hope and love.

One: In this harvest season, we revel in the things of fall:

All: crops coming in, colours changing, the land getting ready for rest.

One: You pour contentment into your people and also an ache.

All: We have an emptiness for your kin-dom come on earth as it is in heaven.

One: In this season of plenty, give us hunger, we pray:

All: hunger for right relations, hunger for a community of love, hunger for a world of justice.

One: Holy One, receive our prayers.

All: Amen.

Robin Wardlaw, Toronto, Ont.

Listening For God's Word

- **Hymn:** I Thank You, Thank You, Jesus (verse 1)

MV 188

The Story for the Young at Heart

Scripture Readings

Deuteronomy 8:7-18

(Reader Joanne MacPhail)

One: Herein Lies Wisdom.

All: Thanks Be To God.

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 65

VU 782

Gospel Reading

Luke 17:11-19

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

All: Praise to Christ, the Word.

Ministry of Music- Gallery Choir: Look at the World

John Rutter

Reflection: Happy Thanksgiving on Turtle Island

Rev. Hoeun Lee

• **Hymn** For the Beauty of the Earth (tune; DIX)

VU 226

Responding to God's Word

Time of Offering

Offertory The Lone Wild Bird
Lenny Muth, soloist

arr. David N. Johnson

• **Dedication of Offering** We Plough the Fields (chorus only)

VU 520

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Prayer of Dedication:

One: Giver of gifts, beyond our human understanding,

All: we praise and honour you.

One: May our thanksgiving break out from this faith community,

All: with joyful singing, careful praying, and compassionate action,

One: in the name and in the way of Jesus Christ.

David Sparks, Summerland, B.C.

Call to Prayer Holy, Holy, Holy (English, Spanish, English)

VU 951

Prayers of the People

A Latin American Lord's Prayer

God, who is in us here on earth, holy is your name in the hungry who share their bread and their song. Your Kin-dom come, which is a land flowing with milk and honey. Let us do your will, raising our voice when all are silent. You are giving us our daily bread in the song of the bird and the miracle of the corn. Forgive us for keeping silent in the face of injustice. Don't let us fall into the temptation of taking up the same arms as the enemy. But deliver us from evil. Give us the perseverance to look for love, even if we fail; so we shall have known your Kin-dom which is being built forever and ever. Amen.

• **Sending Hymn** We Praise You, O God

VU 218

Sending Forth and Benediction

• **Benediction Response** Sing Amen

VU 431

Recession of the Light and Word

Postlude: NUN DANKET (Now Thank We All Our God)

Sigfrid Karg-Elert