

# First United Church

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October 22, 2023

10:30 a.m.

**Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Peace Sunday**



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

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Bulletin Art: "Moses with the Burning Bush" (1966) by Marc Chagall

- Is a request to stand in body or in spirit

Prelude 2 settings of LOBE DEN HERREN

J. G. Walther & Max Reger

## *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:** Glory to God

MV 36

### Lighting of the Christ Candle and procession of the Word

- **Call to Worship**

**ONE:** The invitation is given to every person by Jesus Christ: "Come to me! Follow me! Be my disciples!"

**ALL:** **We come to this place, to this time, at the invitation of Jesus Christ.**

**ONE:** In the name of Christ,

**ALL:** **we accept the invitation to discipleship.**

**ONE:** In the name of Christ,

**ALL:** **as his disciples, we worship and praise God.**

**ONE:** In the midst of a world where cruelty abounds,

**ALL:** **we proclaim the God of Compassion.**

**ONE:** In the midst of despair that threatens to swallow up whole lives, whole peoples,

**ALL:** **we proclaim the God of Hope.**

**ONE:** In the midst of indifference and apathy,

**ALL:** **we proclaim the God of Love.**

ONE: Come, let us worship together and share our witness of God's living presence in the world.

On Earth Peace

- **Opening Hymn** Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

VU 220

### **Prayer of Confession**

ONE: For hatred between peoples, for violence among nations, for breakdowns in civility, we pray:

**ALL: Why does it have to be this way, O God? What choices of ours could bring change?  
(silence)**

ONE: For estrangement within families, for tensions among neighbours, we pray:

**ALL: Why does it have to be this way, O God? What choices of ours could bring change?  
(silence)**

ONE: For divisions among Christians, for tension within our nation, for conflict within our own community, we pray:

**ALL: Why does it have to be this way, O God? What choices of ours could bring change?  
(silence)**

ONE: For our own inner struggles with an inflated ego or deflated self-worth, for the pressures that worry and fears bring to our lives, we pray:

**ALL: Why does it have to be this way, O God? What choices of ours could bring change?  
(silence)**

### **Words of Assurance**

ONE: Receive the promise of God: through all these times, amidst all these conditions, God offers the Spirit's transformative power as our companion, guide, and hope.

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

## *Listening For God's Word*

- **Hymn** Shalom, Salaam

Nigel Weaver

### **The Story for the Young at Heart**

#### **Scripture Readings**

**Deuteronomy 34:1-12**

(Reader: Marilyn Gerriets)

One: Herein Lies Wisdom.

**All: Thanks Be To God.**

**Responsive Psalm** 90:Part One (1-6), Part Three (13-17)

VU page 805-806

**Ministry of Music - Gallery Choir:** He Never Failed Me Yet  
Pianist, Lee Willingham

Robert Ray

**Reflection:** "Moses, Whom YHWH Knew Face to Face"

Rev. Hoeun Lee

• **Hymn** I Have Called You by Your Name

MV 161

## *Responding to God's Word*

**Time of Offering**

**Offertory** Andantino poco allegretto

Cesar Franck

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

VU 520

**Prayer of Dedication:**

**ALL: Bless these gifts we offer, O God, that they may teach us to live as disciples: creating peace, not war, building bridges, not destroying, learning understanding, not division. Bless us with your Spirit's guidance that we may be a living offering for your work in the world. Amen.**

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

**Call to Prayer** Peace for the Children (verses 1, 5, 6, 7)

MV 149

**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** When Hands Reach Out Beyond Divides

MV 169

**Sending Forth and Benediction**

• **Benediction Response** I Am Walking a Path of Peace

MV 221

**Recession of the Light and Word**

**Postlude:** Batalha de 6° Tom

Antonio Correa Braga (ca 1695)