

# First United Church

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November 19, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
Children's Sunday



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

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- Is a request to stand in body or in spirit

**Prelude** 4 Preludes of Praise John Behnke  
This is God's Wondrous World; God Loves Me Dearly; The King of Love  
My Shepherd Is; Crown Him with Many Crowns

## *Listening as we Gather*

**Welcome and Land Acknowledgement** Vern Hall

ONE: We begin our service with gratitude and respect as we remember together that this land, this planet is sacred. We are on holy ground.

**ALL: Earth is our only home, and we are related to it as part of the web of life.**

ONE: We lament that we have not honoured our deep relationship with the earth. The climate crisis is one result of our overconsumption and wastefulness. We commit to learning and practicing better care for the earth.

For thousands of years, Indigenous people have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and their spirituality. We are gathered on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Chonnoton, and Anishinaabe and acknowledge their stewardship of the land throughout the ages. We lament that we have not honoured their ways, nor their spirituality and we all live with the consequences.

**ALL: We seek to live into right relationship with all Indigenous people with whom we share the land. We commit to listening to and respecting their wisdom.**

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** Vern Hall

- **Introit:** And on this Path MV 8

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

- **Call to Worship**

ONE: Friends, we know what God desires of us:

**ALL: That we do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with God.**

ONE: We gather this morning to remind each other about that,

**ALL: To remember that now is always the right time to do these things.**

ONE: A time set apart,

**ALL: A time to come together;**

ONE: A space filled with silence

**ALL: A space filled with song;**

ONE: Hearts seeking solace,

**ALL: Hearts overflowing with joy:**

ONE: This is the day the Lord has made.

**ALL: Let us worship God.**

- **Opening Hymn** God of Grace and God of Glory  
tune: CWM RHONDDA

VU 686

### Prayer of Approach

ONE: As we gather in community this morning, we pray

**ALL: God of rising sun, embrace us**

**God of mist and rain, refresh us**

**God of flowing stream, revive us**

**God of gentle breeze, speak to us**

**God of day and night-time, hear us**

**God of tears and laughter, bless us**

**God of love and power, uphold us**

**Your children and our family, Amen**

## *Listening For God's Word*

- **Hymn** I'm Gonna Live so God Can Use Me

VU 575

**Children's Moment and Song:**

Rev. Eva Mezo

### Scripture Readings

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

(Reader: Douglas Facey)

One: This is the witness of the Church.

**All: Thanks Be To God.**

**Sung Psalm 90: 1-12 (Parts 1 and 2)**

VU 805

**Gospel Reading**

Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson

**Matthew 25:14-30**

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**All: Praise to Christ, the Word.**

**Ministry of Music - Gallery Choir:** Bless the Lord, O My Soul

M. Ippolitoff-Ivanoff

**Message:** The Gift of Time

Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson

- **Hymn** O God, We Yearn for Safety by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

## *Responding to God's Word*

**Invitation to Offering and Dedication**

**Offertory** Lead, Kindly Light  
Lenny Muth, soloist

Vern Hall  
Arthur Sullivan

- **Dedication of Offering** Ay, Ay, Salidummay MV 184

**Prayer of Dedication:**

(After offering is received, a prayer).

ONE: Holy One, Your generosity, grace, and mercy are astounding and we pray that the gifts we offer in worship and throughout the week might be used in Your name. Help us to be generous with our money, but also with our talents and time. Strengthen us to recognize Your blessings, to be grateful, and to respond accordingly. Amen.

**Call to Prayer** Cradle Me in Your Arms MV 91

**Prayers of the People**

**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** Take My Life and Let it Be VU 506

**Commissioning and Benediction**

- **Benediction Response** May the God of Peace MV 224

**Recession of the Light and Word**

**Postlude:** Alleluia on LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Franklin D. Ashdown