

Please stand where ** is indicated

Gathering Song: VU 477 | Come with Joy vv. 1-4

Announcements:

Welcome:

The light of Christ shines within us. (*Elder lights Christ candle*).

We are worshipping on unceded Mi'kmak'i land;

acknowledging that we are all people of the Peace and Friendship Treaty.

(*Elder lights Peace Candle*)

The Holy Embrace encompasses us all. (*Elder lights Affirmation candle*)

In this community of faith, we celebrate that all are welcome in this place.

All are welcome by God's grace.

****Call to Worship:**

(One)

Come, let us gather for worship.

(All)

It's a fine day to worship the Lord.

(One)

For 98 years, we've been singing as The United Church of Canada, praying and preaching, serving and dreaming.

(All)

For 98 years, we've been listening as The United Church of Canada, searching and comforting, loving and learning.

(One)

For 98 years, God has been leading us as The United Church of Canada, guiding and cajoling, encouraging and challenging.

(All)

And so, on this 98th anniversary of our denomination, we declare, Holy Lord!

Glory Lord! Praise to your Name!

****Opening Prayer:**

inspired by A Song of Faith (2007) Rev Judith will read from Gathering

****Opening Hymn:** VU 218 We Praise You, O God

****A New Creed:** VU 918

(All)

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus,

the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.
We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Illumination:

Beckoning God, You promise long journeys and new names.
Call us out to risk holy adventure with unusual table companions.
Linger with us so that we may be faithful disciples, touching the fringe of your healing
on behalf of all your children.
Open our ears and our minds to these words of scripture.
Amen.

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-9
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

- offered by Nancy Kent

Words of God that is still speaking.
Thanks be to God.

Reflection:

- Reverend Judith Perry

Ministry of Music: Reach Out and Touch
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Prayer Requests:

Prayers of the People:

Lord God, friend of those in need,
your Son Jesus has untied our burdens and healed our spirits.
We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened,
those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world.

Prayers of the People, concluding with:

Hear our prayers that we may love you with our whole being
and willingly share the concerns of our neighbors. Amen.

Offering Invitation: *as in The Gathering Pentecost 2023 p.33*

Hymn During Offering: MU 186 Because Jesus Felt (*sung seated*)

****Offering Prayer:**

O God, as the showers renew the earth, bathe us in your healing power. Stretch out your hand, that we may live and know that you alone are God, in whose faithfulness we have life all our days. Receive, we pray, these offerings as a token of our faith. Amen.

Communion Prayer:

(One)

May God be with us.

(All)

God is with us.

(One)

Let us open our hearts to God.

(All)

We open them to God and to one another.

(One)

Let us give thanks to God.

(All)

It is right to give thanks and praise.

(One)

O Holy Wisdom of God, eternally offensive to our wisdom, and compassionate toward our weakness, we praise you and give you thanks, because you emptied yourself of power and entered our struggle, taking upon you our unprotected flesh. You opened wide your arms for us upon the cross, becoming scandal for our sake, that you might sanctify even the grave to be a bed of hope to your people.

Therefore, with those who are made refugees in their own land, abandoned or betrayed by friends, whose bodies are violated or in pain; with those who have died alone without dignity, comfort or hope; and with all the company of saints who have carried you in their wounds, we join to praise you, saying:

(All)

Holy, Holy, Holy, vulnerable God.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory!

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God.

Hosanna is the highest.

(One)

Blessed is our brother, Jesus, who, before his suffering, earnestly desired to eat with his companions the Passover of liberation; who, on the night that he was betrayed, took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said:

“This is my body, which is for you. Do this to remember me.”

In the same way, after supper, he passed the cup saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this whenever you drink it, to remember me."

(All)

**Remembering the death
and celebrating the resurrection,
We await with hope the coming again
of compassion and justice to the earth.**

(One)

Therefore, as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we are proclaiming Christ's death until he comes. In this communion, we restore to memory and hope the broken and unremembered victims of tyranny and sin;

and we long for the bread of tomorrow, and the wine of the age to come.

Come then, life-giving Spirit of our God, brood over these bodily things, and make us one body with Christ, that we may labour with creation to be delivered from its bondage to decay, into the glorious liberty of all the children of God.

(All)

Amen.

The Prayer of Jesus *(as found at VU 916)*

**Our Father-Mother,
who is in the heavens,
may your name be made holy,
may your dominion come,
may your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today the bread we need;
and forgive us our debts,**

**as we forgive our debtors;
and do not put us to the test,
but rescue us from evil.
For yours is the dominion,
and the power,
and the glory forever.
Amen.**

Communion

Ministry of Music During Communion: *In Remembrance (found at Hymnal 322)*

Prayer after Communion:

We give thanks that bread broken brings wholeness, that wine poured out replenishes; that time spent with the risen Christ and one another is gift and grace. Amen.

****Final Hymn: VU 468 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ**

****Blessing:**

With deep love, we have been The United Church of Canada for 98 years. With faith, we have sought to offer service to God in this community and this country. God bless us in all that God has ahead for us. God bless you and keep you. Amen.

****Parting Song: VU 477 I Come with Joy v.5/ Go Now in Peace (Besig/Price)**