

Sunday August 30th, 2020

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: Look to the mountains; look to the hills!

All: Love comes to us with joy!

One: The world is filled with beauty.

All: Flowers appear on the earth, birdsong brightens the day.

One: Crops yield their produce in abundance, the air is filled with sweetness.

All: The summer of God's love is with us.

One: Let the oil of gladness anoint your souls.

All: Arise and sing for joy!

Hymn: VU 405 “New Every Morning”

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Prayer of Approach (said together)

Creating God, you are the source of summer's splendour— the beauty and fragrance of delicate flowers, and the sweet sound of birdsong. We come to you today with delight and gladness, grateful for all of your wonders. As the fields produce their harvest, may your love grow within us, that we too may produce a harvest of love, hope, and joy. Amen.

Good News Time

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: VU - “Wonderful Words Of Life”

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 3: 1-12

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16: 21-28

Prayer of Reflection (said together)

Gracious, inviting God, you continually provide us with opportunities to practice generous hospitality. But our fear of things that are different, our reluctance to share, and our desire to be in control make our welcome appear weak and insincere.

Because we long for what is familiar and comfortable, we have difficulty honouring the stranger as a sacred guest who bears the face of Christ. Worn out

and irritated by the work we think we must do, we miss opportunities to receive the gifts that such guests offer us. Forgive us, O God, for focusing on the wrong things. Show us how to do what is right.

Time of Reflection

Words of Assurance

One: Now let the wonderful gift of God's forgiveness flow through you. May the abundance of God's mercy and grace set you free to serve God with love.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Anthem: The City Harmonic – “Spark”

Message: Unexpected

Hymn: VU 509 “I, The Lord Of Sea And Sky (Here I Am, Lord)”

The Offering

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.***

Prayers of the People

Hymn: VU 238 “How Great Thou Art”

The Blessing and Benediction

***Go now in peace, never be afraid;
God will go with you each hour of every day;
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true;
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe;
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above!
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen. Amen. Amen.***

Words: Don Besig and Nancy Price, Music: Don Besig © 1999

Postlude: Hayde Bluegrass Orchestra – “Wayfaring Stranger”