

WELCOME TO ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, July 5, 2020

Presiding: Debbie Stockdale

We gather as a Christ-infused Community of Faith

Regardless of your age, stage, gender, sexual identity, or how great or small you feel your faith is we each bring something of ourselves to this place. Come as you are -- and be.

SEED FOR MEDITATION

“The yoke is hard because the teachings of Jesus are radical: enemy love, unconditional forgiveness, extreme generosity. The yoke is easy because it is accessible to all — the studied and the ignorant, the rich and the poor, the religious and the nonreligious. Whether we like it or not, love is available to all people everywhere to be interpreted differently, applied differently, screwed up differently, and manifested differently.”

— Rachel Held Evans, *Evolving in Monkey Town: How a Girl Who Knew All the Answers Learned to Ask the Questions*

GATHERING WITH COMPASSION

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting our Candles:

I light the Affirming candle to affirm that all humanity must be respected and valued.

I light the Treaty 7/Metis Region 3 candle to show respect for the land and to affirm our continued commitment to live into right relations with our indigenous brothers and sisters.

Lighting the Christ Candle: This candle dances with the presence of the Spirit, reminding us of the warmth of the community in which God calls us to gather and the light that shines with wisdom, insight, and clarity for us in our time of worship.

Peter Chynoweth, Gathering Pentecost 1 2020, p. 33

Sing: Where Two or Three are Gathered (3x)

Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there, I am there.

EXPANSION OF OUR HEARTS

Gathering in the Spirit:

All God's children are welcome and wanted here, no matter your need.

We welcome everyone.

God will give you rest from your weariness, comfort from your pain, balm for your soul, food for your mind and hope for your tomorrow.

We will rest in God.

God's ability to tend and nurture, calm and inspire, knows no bounds and never ends.

Thanks be to God!

Let us open our hearts and minds to God's loving-kindness and welcome.

Let us be God's loving-kindness and welcome for each other. Amen

Allison Abbot-Wiebe, Gathering Pentecost 1 2020, p. 33 (amended slightly)

Opening prayer

God of love,

Open us to feel your presence with us this morning and always.

In the sunshine, in the green grass, in the smiles that greet us on our walks, we see glimpses of your grace.

In each helping hand, each prayer, each loving contact, we see glimpses of your grace.

Help us to know that Jesus offers us strength when we feel weak and extends his hand to help us when we feel overwhelmed.

God, in these times when we are unable to freely hug those we love, may we feel supported and held in your love. May we know the strength of Christ and the companionship of the Spirit are with us always.

And God, when we are feeling strong enough, may we be a glimpse of your love and grace for others, helping them through their time of need.

Amen

Sing: Morning Has Broken (VU 409)

Morning has broken, like the first morning

Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird

Praise for the singing, praise for the morning

Praise for them springing fresh from the Word

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from Heaven

Like the first dew fall, on the first grass

Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden

Sprung in completeness where His feet pass

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning

Born of the One Light Eden saw play

Praise with elation, praise every morning

God's re-creation of the new day

Morning has broken, like the first morning

Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird

Praise for the singing, praise for the morning

Praise for them springing fresh from the Word

PROCLAIMING

There will be a moment of silence in between each reading for prayer and reflection.

Readings:

Matthew 11:28-30

Silence

Matthew 11: 28-30 paraphrase by Ralph Milton

Silence ...

From Embers: One Ojibway's Meditations - I Raise Sacred Smoke by Richard Wagamese (p. 86)

Silence

Musical Interlude

Reflection: Sharing the Load

Sing: What a Friend we Have in Jesus (VU 664)

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Christ the Saviour is our refuge,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do our friends despise, forsake us?
Are we tempted to despair?
Jesus' strength will shield our weakness,
And we'll find new courage there.

RESPONDING

Prayers of the Heart

Prayer of Jesus

Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done
in earth, as it is in heaven:
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen.

Sing: One More Step Along the World I Go (VU 639)

One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go;
From the old things to the new
Keep me traveling along with you
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me traveling along with you.

Round the corners of the world I turn,
More and more about the world I learn;
And the new things that I see
You'll be looking at along with me
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me traveling along with you.

As I travel through the bad and good,
Keep me traveling the way I should;
Where I see no way to go
You'll be telling me the way, I know
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me traveling along with you.

Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving though the world is tough;
Leap and sing in all I do,
Keep me traveling along with you
And it's from the old I travel to the new;

Keep me traveling along with you.

You are older than the world can be,
You are younger than the life in me;
Ever old and ever new,
Keep me traveling along with you
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me traveling along with you.

SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Sung Benediction: When you Walk from Here (VU 298)

When you walk from here, when you walk from here,
Walk with justice, walk with mercy, and with God's humble Care.

Postlude