Church Name

May 28, 2023

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

On the day of Pentecost, God’s Spirit swept through the place where the Apostles were and rested on each one. Likewise, may Christ’s light burn in each one of our hearts this day and always. (the Christ Candle is lit)

**Welcome**

**Acknowledging the Land**

We acknowledge with respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the peoples with whom Treaty 6 was signed and the territory wherein this service is taking place, and our responsibility as Treaty members. We also honour the heritage and gifts of Métis people. May we continue to work towards learning the truths and being active participants in reconciliation.

**Call to Worship**

Creator, you call us to discern a good path together.

**In this time of worship reveal once again, the path you wish us to follow**

May our steps hold fast to your paths, by whatever route we have followed to be here, so that our feet do not slip.

**For your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.**

**Opening Prayer**

Exuberant Spirit of God,

bursting with the brightness of flame

into the coldness of our lives

to warm us with a passion for justice and beauty,

we praise you.

Exuberant Spirit of God,

sweeping us out of the dusty corners of our apathy

to breathe vitality into our struggles for change,

we praise you.

Exuberant Spirit of God,

speaking words that leap over barriers of mistrust

to convey messages of truth and new understanding,

we praise you.

Exuberant Spirit of God,

flame, wind, speech,

burn, breathe, speak in us;

fill your world with justice and with joy. Amen.

*(Jan Berry, Bread of Tomorrow edited by Janet Morley)*

**Hymn “Oh a Song Must Rise” More Voices #142** (or a hymn of choice)

Refrain

Oh, a song must rise for the spirit to descend

Oh, a song must rise once again (again)

Singing out God’s praises and glory,

the faithful voices blend,

Oh, a song must rise for the spirit to descend. (descend)

1. From the mountains to the valleys,

from the desert to the sea,

a song must rise once again.

From the voices of our leaders,

the voice of you and me,

a song must rise for the spirit to descend. R

2. From poverty and riches,

from the voice of young and old,

a song must rise once again. (again)

From the free and the imprisoned,

the timid and the bold,

a song must rise for the spirit to descend. R

3. From ev’ry house of worship,

in ev’ry faith and tongue,

a song must rise once again.

From the villages and cities

a new song must be sung,

a song must rise for the spirit to descend. R

**Prayer of Confession/Transformation**

Holy Mystery, your Spirit has swept through your people

in the past and has changed hearts and minds.

**We confess that it is difficult for us to change long-standing**

**attitudes and biases even when they hurt others.**

**Sweep through your people today; remind us once more of your awesome power.****Continue to move in us, through us, around us and yes, even in spite of us, so that we might align ourselves with your Spirit or realign, and once again realize and live out your dream for the world.**

**Words of Assurance**

Thankfully, God’s love and mercy is boundless. Move forward from today with the knowledge that you have been touched by God’s grace. As a forgiven people, live in hope, love, and justice. Amen.

**Hymn ‘Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New” More voices #115**

Behold, (behold,) behold, (behold,)

I make all things new,

beginning with you and starting from today.

Behold, (behold,) behold, (behold,)

I make all things new,

my promise is true,

for I am Christ the way.

Repeat

**Theme Time with the Young of Heart**

**Scripture Readings**

(See attached sermon and select which ones you want to use)

**Special Music**

**Sermon (written by Daryl Woods)**

(see attachment)

**Hymn “I Am Walking a Path of Peace” More Voices #221**

I am walking a path of peace,

I am walking a path of peace,

I am walking a path of peace,

lead me home, lead me home.

Additional verses;

“of love,” “of hope,” “of joy,”

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Concern**

Loving Parent, we give thanks today to be here, worshiping with you in our midst and thankful for each other. We are thankful that seeds are being planted in the ground both in garden and field and that soon new life will sprout forth.

Today as the Living Skies Regional Council gathers and has since Thursday, we pray that the business conducted was filled with justice, hope, reconciliation, and love. We give thanks for those who were recognised today as Lay Licensed Worship Leaders; for those who were ordained, Sarah Giles and MinHyuk Hwang and their new ministries and for those who have retired from their ministry, Michele Rowe and Allan Gairns. We thank you God for these people who provide and continue to provide leadership in our church.

We also pray for our world today God.

Be with us as we feed those who are hungry, care for those who are sick, comfort those who are mourning or homeless.

Be with us as we work for inclusion and justice of all people regardless of culture, gender identity, mental wellness, or economic status.

Be with us as we work towards peace in our homes, our communities, and the world.

Be with us as we stand up for those who are bullied or oppressed, those who live in abusive situations and those who many see as least.

May our work here on earth never falter and may we continue to be agents of love in this aching world.

We pray this in Jesus’ name who shared his prayer so that we can say together…..Our Mother and Father…..

**Minute for Mission**

**Offering**

Friends, God has gifted us with many things with the expectation that we would share them with others. Today’s offering will go to the Mission and Service Fund where together with the church across the country can make a difference in the lives of many here and in the world. For members of Calvary United, if you are using your church envelopes, your offering will remain with the church here.

**Special Music (or use something your congregation normally practices) – while offering is gathered**

**Dedication of Offering**

O Holy One, it is with thankful hearts that we have the ability of sharing the gifts we have. Receive these gifts, bless them, and help us to use them bring peace, justice, and love into this aching world. Amen

**Affirmation of Faith – A New Creed**

**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.**

**Hymn “Who is My Mother” More Voices #178**

1. Who is my mother, who is my brother?

All those who gather round Jesus Christ:

Spirit blown people born from the Gospel

sit at the table, round Jesus Christ.

2. Differently abled, differently labeled,

widen the circle round Jesus Christ:

crutches and stigmas, culture’s enigmas,

all come together round Jesus Christ.

3. Love will relate us colour or status

can’t segregate us round Jesus Christ:

family failings, human derailings

all are accepted round Jesus Christ.

4. Bound by one vision, met for one mission

we claim each other, round Jesus Christ:

here is my mother, here is my brother,

kindred in Spirit, through Jesus Christ.

**Closing Hymn “Wherever You May Go” More Voices #216**

Refrain

Wherever you may, go, I will follow,

and your people shall be my people too.

Wherever you may go, I will follow,

for I would be faithful, loyal, and true.

1. Say the word and I will stay,

I will never go away,

we will travel side by side

and God’s love will be our guide.

2. From beginning to the end

I will always be your friend,

when you need me, I’ll be there,

you can trust my faithful care.

**Commissioning and Blessing**

May we go into the world as God’s children,

To see justice, bestow compassion, share kindness

And offer our love.

May the blessing of the Holy Mystery be with you,

May the light that Christ shine within you for all to see,

And May the Spirit guide you from here and in the world.

Go with love and peace,

Amen

**Going Forth “You Shall Go Out with Joy” Voices United #884**

You shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace;

The mountains and the hills will break forth before you;

There will be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the fields will clap,

Will clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands (Clap, clap)

The trees of the field will clap their hands (clap, clap)

The trees of the field will clap their hands (clap, clap)

While you go out with joy! X2