

***GATHERING HYMN:**

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

VU #291

Refrain

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful: in love, God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours, God made their tiny wings.

The purple headed mountains, the river running by,
the sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky;

Refrain

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden: God made them every one.

The rocky mountain splendour, the lone wolf's haunting call,
the great lakes and the prairies, the forest in the fall;

God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God our maker, who has made all things well.

Refrain

PRAYER OF HUMILITY:

**Merciful and loving God,
we come into your presence today
hoping in some way to touch you,
to see for ourselves the truth of your resurrection.
Gather up our lingering fears and confusion,
meet our doubts with compassion and understanding.
Open our eyes to your love and grace surrounding us.
Open our ears to hear you calling us to new challenges.
Open our imaginations to new possibilities.
Come anew to all who have been unable to believe;
come anew to all who have known you
but turned away from you.
Help us to experience you standing in our midst,
saying, "peace, peace."**

**May our broken world and our broken lives
be transformed in your image.**

**We offer woundedness and turn to you for healing
and newness of life,
for you, O God,
are our strength, our hope, and our salvation.**

CHORAL RESPONSE: "Kyrie Eleison" MV #68

***O God have mercy,
O God have mercy,
O God have mercy,
have mercy on us.***

***GREETING ONE ANOTHER:** *(responsively)*

The God of love and peace be with you.

And also with you.

SHARING A STORY: *(with those of all ages)*

SINGING A SONG: "Here In This Ordinary Place"

May we awake, awaken
To the presence of God
The presence of God
The presence of God
May we awake, awaken
To the presence of God
Here in this ordinary place.

(Chorus)
Here, here in this ordinary place.
Here, here in this ordinary place.

May we awake, awaken
To the power of love
The power of love
The power of love.
May we awake, awaken
To the power of love
Here in this ordinary place.

(Chorus)
Here, here in this ordinary place.
Here, here in this ordinary place.

And may we build a community of
Justice for all
Justice for all
Justice for all
And may we build communities of justice for all
Here in this ordinary place.

(Chorus)
Here, here in this ordinary place.
Here, here in this ordinary place.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Gary Branch

1 John 3:1-7

*Psalm 4 *(responsively)* *(see back page of bulletin)* VU Page 727

Luke 24:36b-48

REFLECTION: "The Circle of Life"

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION:

GIFT OF MUSIC:

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:

***OFFERING PRAYER:** *(in unison)*

Holy God, Three in One,
we yearn to walk in the warmth of your sacred light.
Thanks, then, for meeting us where we are.
In the face of uncertainty, grant us peace.

Help us live as those who've encountered the resurrected Christ. Amen

MEDITATIVE MUSIC:

Prayers of Intercession:

Silent Prayers:

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

We pray for the peace of the world, O God,
and for the peace that only you can give—
not only the absence of pandemic, conflict and battle,
but also the fullness of life that is prosperity for all,
goodwill among neighbours,
and welcome for every outsider.
Hear us now as we name the situations and nations
for which we seek your Shalom:
our own country, Canada . . .
families buffeted by the storm of economic despair and
illness. . .
war-torn countries . . .
our families, our friends, ourselves
We gather these and all our prayers,
those spoken aloud and those too deep for words,
in Jesus' name we join in the prayer that he taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom 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 kingdom, the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

***CLOSING HYMN:**

"To Show by Touch and Word"

VU # 427

To show by touch and word devotion to the earth,
to hold in full regard all life that comes to birth,
we need, O God, the will to find
the good you had of old in mind.

Renew our minds to choose the things that matter most,
our hearts to long for truth till pride of self is lost.
For every challenge that we face
we need your guidance and your grace.

Let love from day to day be yardstick, rule, and norm,
and let our lives portray your word in human form.
Now come with us that we may have
your wits about us where we live.

BLESSING:

CHORAL CLOSING: "Easter People"

***We are an Easter people
and alleluia is our song!
We are an Easter people
and alleluia, alleluia, alleluia is our song!***

POSTLUDE:



Church News

The regular office hours are Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, closed for lunch from 12:00 to 12:30.

Peanut Butter Update - As of April 15, 2021, 169 jars of Peanut Butter have been collected to go to the Bathurst Volunteer Center. Peanut butter can be dropped off at the church office anytime during office hours; cheques can be delivered or mailed to the Bathurst Volunteer Center at 464 King Ave., Bathurst NB E2A 1P5. Please indicate on your cheque that it is for the purchase of Peanut Butter for the First United contribution.

Reminder – As the in-person worship services have resumed, if you plan to attend the service, please call the church office at 546-3532 by Friday morning, and give Margaret the name(s) and phone number(s) for yourself and anyone in your bubble who will be sitting with you. A seating plan will be pre-arranged based on the required physical distancing rules. *As seating capacity will be much less than usual, please call the office if your plans change and you are unable to attend.* On-line services will continue, on a delayed basis, as the in-person service will be recorded and then uploaded to the church website and Facebook page in due course.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

1 JOHN 3:1-7

1 See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

2 Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he^[a] is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

3 And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

4 Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

5 You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

6 No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him.

7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

LUKE 24:36b-48 (*Jesus Appears to His Disciples*)

36 While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”^[a]

37 They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost.

38 He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?”

39 Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”

40 And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.^[b]

41 While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?”

42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish,

43 and he took it and ate in their presence.

44 Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”

45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,

46 and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah^[c] is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,

47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

48 You are witnesses^[d] of these things.

Psalm 4 – Responsive Reading

Refrain:

In the night I can take my rest. You alone keep my life secure.

Answer me when I call, O God defender of my cause.

For you set me free when I was in distress.

Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

Refrain:

In the night I can take my rest. You alone keep my life secure.

How long, you people, will you defame my honour?

How long will you love what is worthless and seek lies?

Know this, that God has chosen the faithful;

God hears me when I call.

Stand I awe, and cease from sin;

commune with your own heart upon your bed and be still.

Offer the sacrifices that are appointed,

and put your trust in God.

Refrain:

In the night I can take my rest. You alone keep my life secure.

There are many who say,

“O that we might see prosperity!

Lift up the light of your face on us, O God.”

But you have put gladness in my heart

More than those whose grain and wine are plentiful.

Safe and sound, I lie down and sleep,

For you alone, God, make me dwell in safety.

Refrain:

In the night I can take my rest. You alone keep my life secure.