

God, we praise you for compassion,
all the loving that you show;
human touching, tears, and laughter,
help your children to grow.

God, we praise you for your Spirit,
Comforter and daily friend,
restless searcher, gentle teacher,
strength and courage you send.

God, we praise you for the Savior,
come that we may know your ways.
In his loving, dying, rising,
Christ is Lord of our days.

PRAYER OF HUMILITY *(responsively)*

In our day, the earth cries out:

"Can no one see this destruction?"

In our day, the poor cry out:

"Can no one see this hunger?"

In our day, the victims of war cry out:

"Can no one see this violence?"

In our day, the refugees of the climate crisis cry out:

"Can no one see our struggle to survive?"

In our day, those most vulnerable cry out:

"Can no one see this fear?"

We acknowledge, that sometimes, sadly,

we have chosen to turn away.

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Don't Be Afraid"

MV #90

Don't be afraid.

My love is stronger,

my love is stronger than your fear.

Don't be afraid.

My love is stronger and I have promised,

promised to be always near.

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

.....The Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

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

***SINGING A SONG**

"Cosmic Hymn of Praise"

(Seasons of the Spirit Songbook – volume 9)

Sun and moon, praise God.

Singing stars, praise God.

Highest heavens, praise God.

Let all creation sing.

Refrain

Alleluia! Lift your voices!

Join creation's cosmic hymn of praise.

All the earth, praise God.

Deepest oceans, praise God.

Wind and fire, praise God.

Let all creation sing.

Refrain

Hills and mountains, praise God.

Rivers, forests, praise God.

Living creatures, praise God.

Let all creation sing.

Refrain

Let all people, praise God.
Little children, praise God.
All people, praise God.
Let all creation sing.

Refrain

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Gary Branch

Isaiah 65:17-25

Psalms 48:1-11

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC "This Path We Walk" *Emma Vickers*
(See back page of bulletin) *(Previously recorded July 5, 2020)*

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

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

Holy One,
we have received from many others.
They have shared their time, their food,
their wisdom and insight.
They have offered a shoulder to lean on, a hand
to help us out, a heart filled with compassion.
Remembering all who have shared so generously
with us, we now offer these gifts.
Receive them as a sign of our thanksgiving.
Amen.

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(responsively)*

...As we quiet our hearts, **hear our prayers.**

...As our hearts respond with gratitude, **hear our prayers.**

...As our hearts hold these concerns, **hear our prayers.**

...As our hearts dream these possibilities, **hear our prayers.**

...Your love is revealed to us.

Every prayer that's offered is received.

We, as a result, are called to live our lives with imagination and courage.

Our hearts touched by your presence.

THE LORD'S PRAYER - VU #921 *(in unison)*

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.

GOING OUT (as God's people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** "It Moves in Creation"

It moves in creation and flows through our lives,
the Spirit that joins us, the vision that thrives.
A yearning for justice, a questing for peace
reveal God's reflection, when hope is increased.

Refrain:

*For God has many faces,
Far more than we can see,
And where we meet the sacred,
We touch eternity.*

The earth is our garden to tend and sustain;
a gift to be treasured, a sacred domain.
For we are God's children, the daughters and sons,
whose work is to nurture what God has begun.

Refrain:

The hungry the desp'rate, the grieving, the lost,
show God's face in suff'ring and bearing its cost.
Yet we are connected, a part of the whole
and what harms the lowest, on all takes a toll.

Refrain:

A gesture of kindness or loving embrace,
a word of encouragement offered with grace
our patient endurance or comforting deed,
are quietly holy and soulfully feed.

Refrain:

*Words and Music A. Baer, 2010. Arr: S. Porter
Gathering Pentecost 2 2014. Used with permission*

***BLESSING**

...We have a place in Creation.

Let's head out and stand as tall as a mountain.

Our voices are unique and remarkable.

Let's go forth and sing out like a treetop bird.

Our hands can work for healing.

Let's go forth and reach out like the rippling water.

Our hearts reflect God's heart.

Let's head out and shine as bright as the sun above.

Amen

***CHORAL CLOSING**

"May the God of Peace"

MV #224

***May the God of peace and of all good,
may the God of peace and of all good
be always with you. Amen!
May God's peace be with you. Amen!***

(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)

POSTLUDE



From Apology towards Reconciliation
30th Anniversary of the United Church's Apology to
First Nations Peoples

This Path We Walk

Tune: "O WALY WALY (GIFT OF LOVE)" – 8888 (372 in Voices United)

This path we walk, through joy and tears,
a living Way of faith and fears,
through each step's risk, each sorrow's pain,
when walked in love, we'll rise again.

When life is shared, together, free
we'll grow to be all we can be:
a circle wide will call us home,
when wrapped in love, we're not alone.

These gifts we bring, this light we hold,
our songs of grace, our stories told,
remain un-done, told just in part,
till shared in love, and known by heart.

When life is shared, together bound,
God's richest gifts, together found;
together walk the Spirit's Way
when love's the guide, we shall not stray.

This life we share, a blessing deep;
a promised gift, now ours to keep.
God grant our words were spoken true,
now clothed in life, each day anew.

Words ©S. Curtis Tufts – April 2016

Lyrics by S. Curtis Tufts
a United Church minister in Spruce Grove Alberta.

"I was a commissioner from Saskatchewan Conference at the 1986 General Council in Sudbury and have a vivid memory of the evening when the Apology was brought on our behalf by the Moderator to the waiting Elders. The whole council was gathered in an amazing circle dance around a bonfire as the Moderator and Elders met in a tipi nearby. I remember clearly the strong feeling that we were in the midst of a historic turning point kind of moment. I hope that, as a part of our acknowledging the anniversary of that moment, this hymn will remind us of the need to continue faithfully on the journey that was begun then."

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 September 23, 2021, 460 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.

COVID 19 UPDATE – To do our part in keeping the community and our church family as safe as possible, effective September 22, 2021, anyone 12 years or older will be asked to show proof of being fully vaccinated (two doses) or medically exempt when entering the church building. This practice will continue for Sunday services and those visiting the Church office and buildings during the week, until further notice.

We are also required to wear masks at all times while in the church building. The GOOD NEWS is that we are able to continue congregational singing while wearing our masks! Physical distancing in the seating arrangements will also continue.

Reminder – If you plan to attend the service in-person, 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. 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. Registering for the service also allows for the appropriate number of bulletins to be printed.

Thanksgiving – October 10th, 2021 - Anyone wishing to contribute items to decorate the church are encouraged to bring them in by 3PM Wednesday October 6th. Thank you in advance.

Church News

Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council is looking for lay members to be on the Affirm Committee, and the Archives and Records Committee. They would like to make use of your wisdom, expertise and energy! Please consider these opportunities and if you think you may be interested, please contact Rev. Neal, Martha Vickers, or Jini Palmer for further information.

Thank You: The Ways and Means team would like to express a sincere thank you to all who helped in anyway with our Take-Out Beef BBQ. The meat, cooked by Ray Lavigne was delicious. Because of the generous sponsorship of the Hatheway Group, the Ways and Means team realized a profit of approximately \$3,900.00. The next Ways and Means team event will hopefully take place in November - a TAKE-OUT ONLY TURKEY SUPPER.

Truth and Reconciliation Day is Thursday, September 30, 2021. For additional information, to explore the options and/or listen to speakers please see the link below which will guide you to the United Church of Canada website.

<https://united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/honour-children-who-attended-residential-schools>

Community News

“Help Lesotho” Calendars - The Anglophone School District – North has been sponsoring “Help Lesotho” since 2006 as part of its global awareness initiative. As a fund raiser where all of the money raised goes to help finance its work with orphans, vulnerable children, and grandmothers in Lesotho, Africa; “Help Lesotho” has 2022 calendars for sale at a cost of \$15.00. You are invited to support this initiative with your donation. Gary Branch (546-9208) (egbranch@rogers.com) will be taking orders for these calendars until October 12, 2021. Payment can be made in advance by cash or cheque or when the calendars are delivered in November. Cheques are to be made payable to “Help Lesotho”.

SCRIPTURE READING – NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

Isaiah 65:17-25 - The Glorious New Creation

- 17** For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.
- 18** But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,
and its people as a delight.
- 19** I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,
or the cry of distress.
- 20** No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.
- 21** They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
- 22** They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
- 23** They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity;
for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—
and their descendants as well.
- 24** Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.
- 25** The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

Psalms 48: 1-11 - The Glory and Strength of Zion

A Song. A Psalm of the Korahites.

- 1** Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised
in the city of our God. His holy mountain,
- 2** beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth,
Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King.
- 3** Within its citadels God
has shown himself a sure defense.
- 4** Then the kings assembled,
they came on together.
- 5** As soon as they saw it, they were astounded;
they were in panic, they took to flight;
- 6** trembling took hold of them there,
pains as of a woman in labor,
- 7** as when an east wind shatters
the ships of Tarshish.
- 8** As we have heard, so have we seen
in the city of the LORD of hosts,
in the city of our God,
which God establishes forever.
- 9** We ponder your steadfast love, O God,
in the midst of your temple.
- 10** Your name, O God, like your praise,
reaches to the ends of the earth.
Your right hand is filled with victory.
- 11** Let Mount Zion be glad, let the towns of Judah rejoice
because of your judgments.