WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Sunday, October 17, 2021

Season of Pentecost

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**Indicates standing, as able

GATHERING IN COMMUNITY

PRELUDE *"Kyrie"* from Mass for the Convents F. Couperin

WELCOME *We value Affirming, Caring, Growing Spiritually, Reaching Out*
…Michael Brooks

VOICES UNITED **238, verses 1, 2, 4 *How Great Thou Art*

**CALL TO WORSHIP …Karen Eade

By rivers and streams, on the water,
near the lakes and the seas,
we gather together.
Disciples of Christ.
Children of the Spirit.
People of the Creator.
Sometimes with tears.
Sometimes with excitement.
All the time,
worshipping the One
who calls us to be! *(Richard Bott, Moderator, United Church of Canada)*

**PEACE GREETING

May the peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you!
(we exchange words of peace and non-contact gestures)

INTRODUCTION TO BAPTISM AND WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

**CHURCH FAMILY RESPONSE

Will you, with God's help, continue to support these individuals in their faith journeys as we all search within and reach beyond?
We will.

Will you who form the community of love in which our shared values are lived out keep these individuals in your hearts and prayers, and provide an example of affirming, caring, growing spiritually and reaching out to them, with God's help? **We will.**

**A SONG OF FAITH (excerpts)

In grateful response to God's abundant love,
we bear in mind our integral connection
to the earth and one another;
we participate in God's work of healing and mending creation.

To point to the presence of the holy in the world,
the church receives, consecrates, and shares
visible signs of the grace of God.

In company with the churches of the Reformed and Methodist traditions,
we celebrate two sacraments as gifts of Christ:
baptism and holy communion.
In these sacraments the ordinary things of life – water, bread, wine –
point beyond themselves to God and God's love,
teaching us to be alert to the sacred in the midst of life.

Baptism by water in the name of the Holy Trinity
is the means by which we are received, at any age,
into the covenanted community of the church.
It is the ritual that signifies our rebirth in faith
and cleansing by the power of God.
Baptism signifies the nurturing, sustaining, and transforming
power of God's love and our grateful response to that grace.

**POURING OF THE WATER

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
Let us pray. *(all seated)*

THE ACT OF BAPTISM

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

As God's people in this community,

we welcome you, we affirm who you are, and we seek to include you in the life and the ministry we all share.

SUNG BLESSING *A Clare Blessing* J. Rutter

(Children & youth leave for programs) …Jacki Kingston, soloist

COMMUNITY PRAYERS …Karen Eade

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(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.

SEEKING TO GROW SPIRITUALLY

BIBLE READING Galatians 3: 23-29 *(click to view text)*

…Joan Thompson, reader

SERMON "AN ACT OF GRACE"

RESPONDING IN CARE

INVITATION FOR OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO *Lord of All Hopefulness* arr. A. Bullard

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

REACHING OUT IN GRACE

VOICES UNITED **559 *Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*

**COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE *Toccatina* R. Jones