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Calvary Memorial

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

*May you grow in God's garden,
thankful for the love that has been planted in you.
We're glad you're here!*

WE GATHER IN GOD'S HOPE

VU: Voices United

MV: More Voices

* Please rise in body and/or Spirit as you are able.

*We would like to acknowledge that we are on the Haldimand Tract,
traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabeg,
and Haudenosaunee peoples.*

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Prelude

Gabriel's Oboe

*Gathering Hymn **O God beyond All Praising** VU 256

*O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at every gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
we honour and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.*

*The flower of earthly splendor in time must surely die,
its fragile bloom surrender to you our God most high;
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown,
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown:
for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free,
and we through him are given the final victory.*

*Then, hear O gracious Saviour, this song of praise we sing.
May we, who know your favour, our humble service bring;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.*

Call to Worship *written by Christine Longhurst*

One: Come and worship, everyone on earth,
everywhere the sun shines,

All: let's praise God together!

One: For listening when we call,
grounding us in our faith,
forgiving our mistakes,
and providing what we need:

All: let's praise God together!

One: Come and worship, everyone on earth,
everywhere the sun shines,

All: let's praise God together!

Prayer of Approach *written by the Staffordshire Seven*

One: O Lord, save us from hardness of heart,
where your word cannot take root.

**All: O Lord, save us from shallowness of mind,
where your word withers away.**

One: O Lord, save us from the deceitfulness of riches,
where your word is choked by everyday cares.

**All: But Lord, grant that our hearts may be fertile soil,
where your word flourishes and yields a harvest,
bringing salvation to ourselves and those around
us. Amen.**

Story for All Ages **The Bad Seed**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Readings from the Scriptures (adapted from *The Message*)

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 - At about that same time Jesus left the house and sat on the beach. In no time at all a crowd gathered along the shoreline, forcing him to get into a boat. Using the boat as a pulpit, he addressed his congregation, telling stories. ³⁻⁸ "What do you make of this? A farmer planted seed. As he scattered the seed, some of it fell on the road, and birds ate it. Some fell in the gravel; it sprouted quickly but didn't put down roots, so when the sun came up it withered just as quickly. Some fell in the weeds; as it came up, it was strangled by the weeds. Some fell on good earth, and produced a harvest beyond his wildest dreams.

⁹ “Are you listening to this? Really listening?”

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ “Study this story of the farmer planting seed. When anyone hears news of the kingdom and doesn’t take it in, it just remains on the surface, and so the Evil One comes along and plucks it right out of that person’s heart. This is the seed the farmer scatters on the road.

²⁰⁻²¹ “The seed cast in the gravel—this is the person who hears and instantly responds with enthusiasm. But there is no soil of character, and so when the emotions wear off and some difficulty arrives, there is nothing to show for it.

²² “The seed cast in the weeds is the person who hears the kingdom news, but weeds of worry and illusions about getting more and wanting everything under the sun strangle what was heard, and nothing comes of it.

²³ “The seed cast on good earth is the person who hears and takes in the News, and then produces a harvest beyond his wildest dreams.”

Reflection

Hymn

We Plough the Fields and Scatter

VU 520

1 *We plough the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by your almighty hand;
you send the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.*

Refrain *All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
we thank you, God, O holy God,
for all your love.*

2 *You only are the maker
of all things near and far;
you paint the wayside flower,
you light the evening star;
the winds and waves obey you,
by you the birds are fed;
much more to us, your children,
you give us daily bread.* Refrain

3 *We thank you then, O Maker,
for all things bright and good,
the seed-time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food;
accept the gifts we offer
for all your love imparts,
and, what from us you long for,
our humble, thankful hearts. Refrain*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Minute for Mission

Emerging Farmers

Offertory

For the Beauty of the Earth

Invitation to Offering

* Offering Response **Soil of God, You and I** MV 174

*Soil of God, you and I, stand ready to bear
seeds of faith nourished by God's tender care.
Growing in everyone, for here God is found.
All stand together, we are...Holy Ground.*

*Soil of God, you and I, now ready to be
part of God's promise, for others to see.
Open to everyone for here God is found.
All stand together, we are...Holy Ground.*

Pastoral Prayer *adapted from a prayer by Terri*

One: For all the blessings of this life,
we give thanks to you, Creator God. For families,
friends, colleagues, neighbors, and strangers,
who nurture us, that the love of God may grow within.
That your love, your Word, like a seed,
may grow to produce in us, good fruit.

**All: May your love be like a seed, taking root and
growing strong.**

One: For the leaders amongst us, entrusted to care for
others, that they may lead with strong hearts and
gentle hands and generous spirits, with compassion
and mercy, with wisdom and grace. May love grow
and bring peace to this earth.

All: May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

One: For those on rocky paths, who serve in harm's way, those working in the midst of this pandemic, those who live in dangerous places, those who live in areas of war and strife, those who live in fear, those who worry about employment, bills, food, and struggle just to find dignity in life. May your grace bring peace and safety to all people, one to another.

All: May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

One: For those who suffer from any illness or dis-ease—of mind, body, or spirit. Restore these, and all those we carry in our hearts, to fullness of health— health as only you, can bring. May your mercy shower each of us with healing mercy and love.

All: May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

One: For those who are dying, and for those who have died. Send forth your comforting love. Give solace to those who mourn. Console those who grieve. May your grace surround us like a mantle upon our heads, a shawl upon our shoulders, a hand, to hold our hand.

All: May your love, be like a seed, taking root and growing strong. For in faith, we pray...

Lord's Prayer

All: 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. For ever and ever. Amen.

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

* Hymn

Touch the Earth Lightly

VU307

*Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.*

*We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!*

*Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.*

*God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.*

* Commissioning

One: God who has called us here,
sends us forth to the world that we might be one.
And as we go, we ask O God of life,
plant a word within us,
one that might grow into love,
that through our loving there might be peace on earth.

* Choral Benediction **Go Now in Peace**

*Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you each hour of every day
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe
Reach out to others so all the world can see
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.*

("Go Now in Peace" Written by Besig & Price ©1988)

Postlude

Make Our Garden Grow