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WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Growing in faith together - 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

The Garden Song

*Hymn

God, We Praise You for the Morning

VU415

*God, we praise you for the morning;
hope springs forth with each new day,
new beginning, prayer, and promise,
joy in work and in play.*

*God, we praise you for creation,
mountains, seas, and prairie land.
Waking souls find joy and healing
in your bountiful hand.*

*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 Saviour,
come that we may know your ways.
In his loving, dying, rising,
Christ is Lord of our days.*

Hallelujah, hallelujah...Christ is Lord of our days!

Call to Worship *adapted from A Song of Faith, United Church*

One: God creates the universe
and with it the possibility of being and relating.
God tends the universe,
mending the broken and reconciling the estranged.
God enlivens the universe,
guiding all things toward harmony with their Source.

All: Let us worship God, creator and caretaker of all creation!

Prayer of Confession *written by Moira Laidlaw*

One: Merciful God, you plant each of us like seeds in the same field and together we are nourished and nurtured by the sun. We sway in the wind and are refreshed by the rain. We are blessed by the knowledge that you want us to grow towards what you call us to be.

One: When we deprive others of that same opportunity,

All: forgive us.

One: When we want to uproot those whom we believe do not belong in our part of the field,

All: forgive us.

One: When we label others as good or bad rather than accept them for who they are,

All: forgive us.

One: When we are reluctant to acknowledge that we ourselves are a mixture of weeds and wheat,

All: forgive us.

One: When we are afraid to look into the fields of our own lives, to see what is growing there,

All: forgive us.

One: O God, you know us inside and out, through and through.

All: You search us out and lay your hand upon us.

One: You know what we are going to say even before we speak.

All: So we pray that you will help us to reach out to the uprooted and rejected,

One: the lonely and the outcast,

All: and to develop and grow the good in ourselves, in others and in the world.

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

Story for All Ages

Hymn

Come, You Thankful People

VU516

*Come, you thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home!*

*All is safely gathered in,
safe before the storms begin;
God, our maker, does provide
for our needs to be supplied:
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home!*

*All the world is God's own field,
harvests for God's praise to yield;
wheat and weeds together sown,
here for joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear:
Harvest-giver, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.*

*For our God, one day, shall come,
and shall take this harvest home;
from the field shall in that day
all offences purge away;
giving angels charge at last
in the fire the weeds to cast;
but the fruitful ears to store
in the garner evermore.*

*Even so, God, quickly come
to your final harvest home!
Gather all your people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin;
there for ever purified,
in your presence to abide:
come, with all your angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home.*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Readings from the Scriptures (adapted from The Message)

Matthew 13:24-30 - Jesus told another story. "God's kingdom is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. That night, while his hired men were asleep, his enemy sowed thistles all through the wheat and slipped away before dawn. When the first green shoots appeared and the grain began to form, the thistles showed up, too.

²⁷ "The farmhands came to the farmer and said, 'Master, that was clean seed you planted, wasn't it? Where did these thistles come from?'

²⁸ "He answered, 'Some enemy did this.'

"The farmhands asked, 'Should we weed out the thistles?'

²⁹⁻³⁰ "He said, 'No, if you weed the thistles, you'll pull up the wheat, too. Let them grow together until harvest time. Then I'll instruct the harvesters to pull up the thistles and tie them in bundles for the fire, then gather the wheat and put it in the barn.'"

Reflection

Reap

Hymn

Not Perfect

Tim Minchin

*This is my earth, And I live in it
It's one third dirt and two thirds water
And it rotates and revolves through space
At rather an impressive pace
And never even messes up my hair.
And here's the really weird thing
The force created by its spin
Is the force that stops the chaos flooding in.
This is my earth and it's fine.
It's where I spend the vast majority of my time.
It's not perfect, but it's mine.
It's not perfect...*

*This is my house, and I live in it
It's made of cracks and photographs.
We rent off a guy, who bought it from a guy,
Who bought it from a guy, whose granddad left it to him.
And the weirdest thing is that this house
Has locks to keep the baddies out*

*But they're mostly used to lock ourselves in.
This is my house and it's fine.
It's where I spend the vast majority of my time.
It's not perfect, but it's mine.
It's not perfect, but it's mine.*

*This it my body, and I live in it.
It's forty years and four months old.
It's changed a lot since it was new.
It's done stuff it wasn't built to do.
I often try to fill it up with wine.
And the weirdest thing about it is
I spend so much time hating it
But it never says a bad word about me.
This is my body and it's fine.
It's where I spend the vast majority of my time.
It's not perfect, but it's mine.
It's not perfect...*

*This is my brain, and I live in it.
It's made of love and bad song lyrics.
It's tucked away behind my eyes
Where all my screwed up thoughts can hide
'Cause God forbid I hurt somebody.
And the weirdest thing about a mind
Is that every answer that you find
Is the basis for a brand new cliché.
This is my brain and it's fine.
It's where I spend the vast majority of my time.
It's not perfect, but it's mine.
It's not perfect, but it's mine.
It's not perfect, not quite sure I worked out how to work it.
It's not perfect, but it's mine.*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Minute for Mission

Joy in Hard Work

Offertory

Prelude to the film: "49th Parallel"

*O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.*

Refrain *Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!*

*When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze. Refrain*

*But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin. Refrain*

*When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, 'My God, how great thou art!' Refrain*

Pastoral Prayer *adapted from a prayer by Ted Loder*

One: Teach me your ways, Lord,
that I may come down from my heights
and be open to the same Spirit
who moved over the face of the waters in the first day
of creation
and moves also over the chaos of this time
to fashion a day like this, a world like ours,
a life like mine,
a kingdom acting as leaven in the bread of earth.

And make me aware of the miracles of life,
of warm and cold, of starkness and order,
of screaming wind and impenetrable silences,
and of the unfathomable mystery of amazing grace
in which I am kept.

Teach me your ways, Lord, that I may praise you
for all the surprising, ingenious ways you bless me,
and for all the wondrous gifts you give me,
along with all the pain and joy I sustain.

Teach me your ways, Lord,
that I may accept my own talent openly,
nurture it hopefully, develop it faithfully,
and give it freely.

Teach me your ways, Lord,
that I may love your kindness
and practice it toward the hungry of the world,
the poor and sick, and oppressed, that I may learn the
healing humility that comes from You.

Teach me your ways, Lord,
so that my heart is flooded with your mercy—
emptying it of what makes it firmly opposed to your ways,
so that it beats more in rhythm with you
and pounds greatly for your kingdom. Amen.

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 **Sent Forth by God's Blessing** VU481

*Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.*

*The supper is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.*

*The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.*

*God's grace did invite us, God's love shall unite us
to work for the kingdom and answer its call.*

*With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.
With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honour to Christ and the name that we bear.*

* *Commissioning a Franciscan blessing*

One: May God bless you with discomfort, at easy answers,
half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you
may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice,
oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you
may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who
suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war, so that you
may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn
their pain to joy

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to
believe that you can make a difference in the world,
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done
to bring justice and kindness to all our children and
the poor. Amen

* 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

English Country Gardens